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NOVEMBER 30, 2000 [53.16]

Martlet

ELECTION 2000

Were you looking for some change this time?

Why not try one of these...

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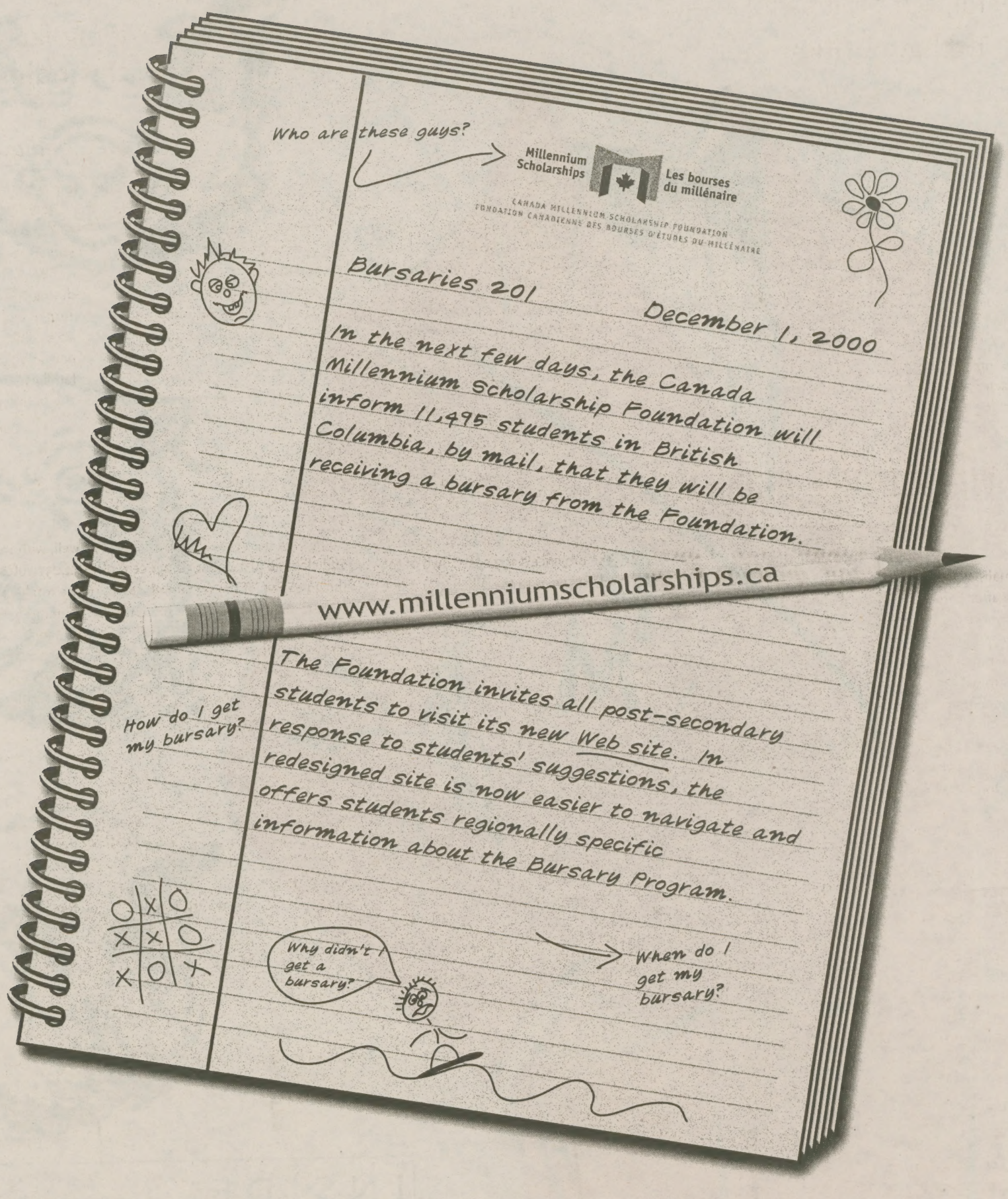
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Why didn't I get a bursary?
When do I get my bursary?

Victoria returns Anderson to Ottawa

Did fear of Alliance influence vote?

by Ben Isitt

Victoria voters broke the mould set by the rest of B.C. on Nov. 27 in rejecting the Canadian Alliance. And unlike the rest of Canada, voter turnout actually increased in the riding.

The recipient? Incumbent MP and federal Environment Minister David Anderson.

> I voted Liberal, but I felt awful I was put into that position.
>
> *UVic student Lydia del Bianco*

Anderson's 23,688 votes eclipsed those of his contenders, as the Liberals claimed 42.6 per cent of the popular vote. Canadian Alliance candidate Bruce Hallsor received 16,516 votes, or 29.7 per cent. NDP Candidate David Turner, a UVic social work professor, received 7,225 votes, or 13 per cent of all votes cast.

"My supporters and I spoke eloquently about issues," Turner told *the Martlet* on election night. "But I think the overriding factor was a fear of a takeover of this riding by Reform-Alliance. Many people felt compelled to vote Liberal to stop that from happening."

Lydia del Bianco, a writing student at UVic, echoes this sentiment.

"I voted Liberal, but I felt awful I was put into that position," del Bianco said. "I usually vote NDP, but this was the election where people had to vote Liberal."

The night before voters went to the polls, del Bianco plastered the UVic campus with posters describing what she considers to be Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day's questionable record on such issues as abortion, gay-rights, immigration, and healthcare.

Results from the Victoria riding suggest many voters felt the same way as del Bianco. In 1997, Anderson received 18,130 votes, compared with 15,393 for Reform party candidate Arla Taylor and 11,419 for NDPer Carol Judd.

Green party leader Joan Russow, who received 3243 votes on Nov. 27, received 2,806 in 1997. Progressive Conservative Brian Burchill received 3,632 compared with 3,589 for the Tory candidate in the last election. Marijuana party candidate Chuck Beyer, representing the newly founded Marijuana party, earned an impressive 862 votes.

The 1997 vote was a much closer race. The people who lined up well after polls had closed on Nov. 27 voted overwhelmingly in favour of Anderson. Voter turnout increased from 68.5 per cent in 1997 to 72.7 per cent this year.

Across the rest of Canada, turnout dropped from 67 per cent to less than 60. And observers at Victoria polls suggest young people voted in remarkable numbers.

In the other capital region ridings, incumbent Alliance MPs easily won re-election. Dr. Keith Martin doubled UVic music student and Liberal candidate Alan Thompson in winning the riding of Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca with 23,981 votes. UVic education professor Carol Harris, running under the NDP banner won 6,482 votes compared to Thomspon's 11,539. Progressive Conservative John Vukovic received 3,857 votes, while Green party candidate Casey Brennan, also a UVic student, received 2,056.

In Saanich-Gulf Islands, Alliance MP Gary Lunn was returned with 25,393 votes, compared with 19,002 for Liberal Karen Knott's 19,002 and 4,719 for NDPer Pat O'Neill. Tory candidate Don Page received 6,024 votes while the Green party's Wally du Temple won 3,243.

With the incumbent lower-island MP's safely returned to Ottawa, what should Victorians look to?

"We want to keep the issues alive during the next three years," David Turner said. "The issues for me are accessible healthcare, affordable education, support for children and families, and curbing the increasing gap between the rich and poor."

photo by Miguel R. MacDonald

Police protect the Prime Minister during a campaign stop in Victoria.

> I think the overriding factor was a fear of a takeover of this riding by Reform-Alliance.
>
> *NDP candidate David Turner*

Liberals win strong majority, voter turnout plummets

by Ben Isitt

Jean Chrétien will remain at the helm for another term after Canadian voters handed his party a resounding victory.

But the third Liberal majority government emerges amidst the lowest voter turnout since 1896: just under 60 per cent of voting-age Canadians cast a ballot.

By comparison, three quarters of the populace voted federally as recently as 1989.

While Liberals won 40.8 per cent of all votes cast, compared with 25.5 for the Alliance, 10.7 per cent for the Progressive Conservatives, and 8.5 per cent for the NDP, this figure represents only 5.2 million Canadians out of a population of 30 million. Almost 9 million Canadians did not vote.

The Liberals' 173 seats gives the party a rock-solid majority in the 301-seat House of Commons, bettering their showing in the 1997 election by 18 seats. The Canadian Alliance will remain the Official Opposition, after it boosted its seat total by six to 66.

The NDP, meanwhile, lost eight seats, thoûgh it retains official party status after winning 13 ridings. Joe Clark's Conservative party, threatened with extinction with the rise of the Alliance, dismissed critics by meeting the official threshold of 12 seats, and Clark came from behind to defeat an Alliance candidate and win the riding of Calgary Centre.

The election reveals deep regional divisions and a massive number of citizens – one third of the total population of the country – who failed to support a candidate.

In Québec, the Bloc Québecois remained strong, winning 38 seats to the Liberals' 36, though this was six fewer than the party won in 1997. The Liberals edged out the Bloc for a majority of the popular vote.

photo by Miguel R. MacDonald

Chrétien visits Victoria.

Ontario remained Liberal country, with the ruling party winning 100 of the province's 103 seats. Two of the others went to the Alliance and one went to the NDP.

And from the Manitoba-Ontario border West, the Alliance followed in the footsteps of its predecessor, the Reform party, winning three quarters of the West's 88 seats. The Liberals and NDP picked up a handful in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but both Alberta and BC were firm Alliance country.

Stockwell Day's party won 24 of his native province's 26 seats, and took a resounding 58.8 per cent of the popular vote.

In B.C., the Alliance won 27 of 34 ridings – a gain of two from 1997 – and claimed just under 50 per cent of the vote. Five of the remaining seats went to the Liberals, while the NDP retained two of the three seats they had held since 1997.

UVic law professor Stephen Owen was among the Liberal victors, defeating Canadian Alliance candidate Kerry-Lynne Findlay by a margin 4,000 votes to win the Commons seat in the mainland riding of Vancouver-Quadra.

Alliance support in B.C. increased by 150,000 from 1997, while the NDP lost almost 100,000 votes and the Liberals held even. So-called "fringe" parties, however, did surprisingly well, with the Green Party receiving 34,037 votes in BC – two per cent of the total – and the Marijuana Party winning over 11,665 voters. The Canadian Action Party received 13,052 votes.

In Québec, 35,536 people voted Marijuana, while the Greens elicited 19,737 votes. The NDP's total vote in the province was a mere 63,390.

So while the government in Ottawa will look alarmingly similar to that which has governed for the past seven years, increased support for "fringe parties," simmering regional preferences, and a burgeoning non-voting population suggest change is afoot in Canadian politics.

A vigilant smoker, a 4:20 toker

Ted Smith gets 2001 court date; medicinal cannabis dealer arrested

by Miguel R. MacDonald

photo by Miguel R. MacDonald

Officers kicked Smith off the courthouse steps for blocking the stairs during his post court day speech.

Security guards escorted Hempology 101 toker-in-command Ted Smith off the steps of Victoria's provincial courthouse as he addressed a crowd of about 20 supporters last week. Smith was in court to answer trafficking charges after a Nov. 8 pro-medicinal marijuana demonstration at UVic.

"I got arrested so we could expose these laws," Smith,31, told the small crowd of supporters. "These last few arrests have just inspired us."

The laws Smith refers to include the blanket prohibition against possession in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. If a Canadian uses pot to treat disease, they must appeal for an exemption under the section 24(1) of the *Charter*. His 4:20 sessions are a public campaign for leaner laws on using pot as medicine.

Smith was arrested at one of the Hempology 101 Society's weekly 4:20 smoke sessions at UVic after an undercover Saanich police officer pocketed one of the seven joints that Smith allegedly lit and passed around the crowd. Saanich Police stopped him after the demonstration in a nearby parking lot. He was arrested again a week later at another 4:20 session, this time by the Victoria Police, for possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking.

As part of his evidence, Smith said he is looking for support from at least 20 witnesses at the last 4:20 session, 20 at the Victoria Library session the week after as well as people who use the Vancouver Island Cannabis Buyers Club (VICBC), a not-for-profit club supplying over 200 people in Victoria with medicinal marijuana. The plan is to have people testify over four days of court proceedings. But the court room will only be half the battle.

> I got arrested so we could expose these laws
>
> *Ted Smith, medical marijuana activist*

Smith had shown up at the downtown Victoria Library with no less than 420 pot cookies to give out to supporters. The Victoria Police were there waiting for him.

But while the case against Smith might seem daunting, he called on supporters to take a stand. The court dates for both charges have been lumped together and will be revisited on Jan. 8 of next year.

"It just gives us more time to build a case for the court," he said.

"The real change will be what we do in the community," he said, adding that the 4:20 sessions at UVic will have to continue, despite the fact that he can no longer attend the sessions as he is banned from campus. Smith was told by friends that at least 70 people showed up at the Nov. 22 session despite his absense.

Smith has passed the lighter to Lee, a Victoria resident that asked that her last name not be used, to keep the meetings going. A sufferer of an A-typical Connective Tissue Disorder Fibro Myalgia, Smith's cause is very close to her.

Lee first experienced the effects of her condition in 1985 when she lost her vision for eight months. She was in her last year of a bachelor's degree in psychology at UVic at the time. She was not diagnosed for another three years.

The disorder itself, which is similar to Lupus, was only identified 25 years ago, Lee said. And while doctors may understand what causes it, there is no cure.

"I have a cholesterol level that could kill a dairy cow," Lee said. "There are days that I can't get out of bed. There are days that I scream at the top of my lungs." She said her condition causes intense pain, sometimes all over her body as it attacks different tissues.

For her, marijuana, which her doctor suggested she try to use as a pain killer, keeps her away from the agony of her condition. And because she is allergic to conventional pain killers like codeine and Demerol, marijuana is one of the few pain killers that she can use.

"We have members with two months to live," said Philippe Lucas who works for the Vancouver Island's Compassion Society (VICS), a provincialy recognized non-profit society which opened 14 months ago. The society deals in alternative medicine and natural therapies with a focus on cannabis. The Oak Bay-based society treats people living with multiple sclerosis, AIDS, epilepsy, hepatitis C, glaucoma, and fibro myalgia to name just a few. With a confirmed doctor's recommendation, a $15 registration fee and a 40-minute registration process, eligible people can sign on to use the clinic's services. In addition to access to cannabis as a cigarette, alcohol-based drink or in cookies, the clinic provides natural medicine treatments: reflexology, acupuncture, Reiki and other alternative treatments.

At least that was the case until the Oak Bay Police shut down the clinic earlier this month. Lucas is now up for three counts of possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking.

What started as a disaster when the clinic was broken into Nov. 8, the same night Smith was arrested at UVic, has turned into a nightmare setback for the Compassion Society. The thief took $4,000 worth of cannabis, $400 cash and a number of weighing scales.

> We will have our treatment room again
>
> *Philippe Lucas, Vancouver Island Compassion Society*

Days later the Oak Bay Police called Lucas to tell him they had found the alleged thief and recovered the stolen cannabis. He was asked to come to the station and identify the product. But upon doing so Lucas said they blindsided him with three charges of marijuana possession for the purpose of trafficking. The police had a warrant to search both the clinic and Lucas' home.

"[The thief] took medicine from 133 really sick people," Lucas said. "They still have yet to charge him with anything."

But the clinic is not gone. Instead, it is moving to a location he would not disclose. And while the man who supplies the clinic's medicinal cannabis might be behind bars, he called on growers in the community to give to the cause.

"We will have our treatment room again," he said.

The clinic was meant to fill the vacuum that Health Canada left when they created section 56 exemptions. The legislation falls under controlled drugs and substances act. The federal act provides for people to grow a number of marijuana plants in their home with the permission of the Minister of Health provided it is used for medicinal or scientific reasons.

"This is not a plant like parsley on the windowsill," Lucas said. He explained that Health Canada does not fully understand what growing cannabis plants entails. It requires a highly scientific process to grow quality, mildew-free plants. A process that few terminally-ill people would have the time or ability to pursue.

"Marijuana laws will have to be changed," Lucas said.

Lucas and Smith, who do not work with each other directly, both agreed that despite three high-profile busts in November alone, there is no police conspiracy at work. Lucas instead shined the light on local media, which, because of their recent coverage of the busts, has lit the issue on fire this month, making it seem as though local authorities are now targeting marijuana activists.

"If somewhere down the road the law changes then the framework of our enforcement will change," said Chris Horsley, media relations for Saanich Police. "When you look at it in this one incident it's really black and white." He explained that campus security complained about the activities of the Hempology 101 club in October. From there it was a matter of organizing the resources for an undercover officer with the street crime unit to attend the 4:20 session, gather evidence and then arrest Smith.

UVic information officer Patti Pitts says Campus Security's complaint went to UVic lawyers and the Vice President of finance and operations Jack Faulk, who then made a recommendation to call Saanich Police. Faulk had no comment.

Pitts made it clear that the arrest was "not a statement about the club," or their ideology. "If campus security feels there is an [illegal] act taking place they will leave it to the Saanich or the Oak Bay Police," she said. It remains to be seen whether Smith and Lucas will be able to beat their charges. Smith, for one, is optimistic.

Lucas is continuing to rebuild the Compassion Society with a fund raiser Dec. 5 at the Neptune Sound Bar. To make a donation call 595-1146.

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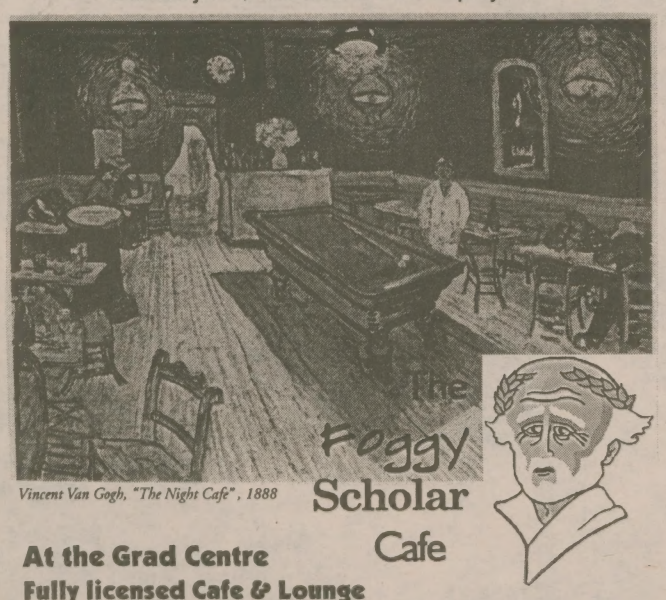

Vincent Van Gogh, "The Night Cafe", 1888

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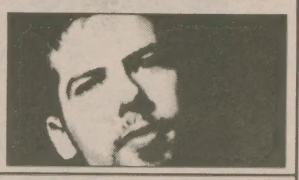

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Sat. Dec. 9:
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Winter gardens breed cheap and healthy eats

by Melissa Jones

photo by Richard Warrington

Former UVic chemistry prof Sandy Kirk works on his garden on a cool November day.

Gardening during the cold and wet winter months is not the most popular outdoor pursuit.

But Pippa Davis says it's more fun than you think. "One thing about Victoria is that we're really lucky because we can garden in the winter," says Davis, a volunteer at LifeCycles, a local non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education, community gardening and food security.

"In the rest of Canada it's too cold to garden in the winter," Davis says.

She adds that southern Vancouver Island features a unique microclimate that is home to "40 different species of winter plants."

Kale, the green leafy vegetable, can be grown all year round and even tastes better when it's grown in the winter months. The leaves produce a chemical that protects the plant from the cold, much like the effect of automobile anti-freeze, and increases the sweetness of the vegetable, Davis says.

Along with kale, greens like lettuce, spinach and cilanto will grow in the winter, as will the broad bean, a plant similar to the lima bean. Cabbages and carrots can be planted this time of year, but they are inedible in the winter. However as soon as spring arrives they "explode" to produce an early crop, Davis says.

Peas, preferring cool weather, can be planted in early fall to be harvested before the frost sets in. Early spring is also good, before the arrival of the summer heat.

"Winter gardens are a lot less maintenance than summer gardens," Davis says. "It's easy to do. You don't have to weed. You don't have to water."

She says preparation for a winter garden is minimal.

The most important thing, Davis says, is to make sure your garden gets enough sunlight. Although it might receive direct sunlight in the summer months, the sun in lower in the sky in winter, and a new location for your crop may be needed, Davis says.

"It is really important not to leave your soil bare," she cautions. "It might be degraded by erosion through wind and rain and snow. So you want to grow stuff on it, or cover your soil with mulch or hay."

Not only does mulching protect against erosion, but it will also reduce evaporation so that when the frost comes, water is trapped underground. Gardeners can mulch with one or two feet of biodegradable, organic material such as straw, leaves or newspaper, Davis says.

While watering is much less of a headache in the wintertime, a plastic cover can be useful, as it creates a greenhouse over the plants. Such a cover can also protect the vegetables in the event of a snowfall.

But why go to the all the hassle when Safeway is just down the road?

"It feels good to garden and grow your own food," Davis says. "It's way more ecologically sound and safer than buying food at your local store."

She adds that the prices of vegetables in local grocery stores include transportion costs to the island, as well as the cost of pesticides and other chemicals that have been added to the plants.

"It's more nutricious because it's picked fresh and not transported from California... which cuts down on fossil fuel consumption," Davis says. "Growing your own food is a sustainable act, because you know where its coming from."

> It feels good to garden and grow your own food. It's way more ecologically sound and safer than buying food at your local store.
>
> *Pippa Davis, LifeCycles*

on the spot

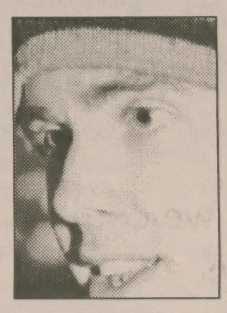
by Richard Warrington

How do you feel about the election results? Did you vote?

Faith Whiting
4th year Environmental Studies and Biology double major
Yes. I was disappointed with the Green Party's results but I'm happy the Alliance didn't get in.

Peter Wigen
Grad student Political Science
Yes. I think the strong showing of the Canadian Alliance in the west is regrettable

Aaron Speller
Campus visitor
Yes. I was suprised. I though the Canadian Alliance would get more seats in Ontario.



Zoe Hodkinson
Campus visitor
No. I feel pretty good that the Alliance did not get the vote.

UVic flunks fire drill

by Ben Isitt

Perhaps the grade-school model of mandatory, regular fire drills should be implemented at UVic.

On the afternoon of Nov. 19, students and staff in the Cornett Building took three times as long as the Saanich Fire Department thought they should take to evacuate the building.

"The alarm was pulled at 1:17 and four and a half minutes later people were still filing out," said Lieut. Brad Woollven, a fire prevention officer with the Saanich department. "This building should be evacuated in a minute and a half."

Once or twice a year, surpise drills are held in selected campus building. A team of staff are given a one-week window in which the drill will take place, and when the firefighters pull the alarm, they don orange vests and direct students and others out of the building.

In the case of the latest drill, which saw a large red firetruck parked on the edge of UVic's academic quadrangle as passersby gathered around, it appears as though students were less than vigilant.

"In one room I went into a student was casually putting his bag on three minutes after the bell had been pulled," Lieut. Woollven said. "Not good," was how he summed up UVic's response to the safety effort.

"It's a matter of education and reinforcement," Lieut. Woollven concluded.

Correction

A Nov. 9 *Martlet* article ("Date rape pill lab busted," on page 2) attributes the quote "It was a real pharmacy of street drugs," to Saanich Police Const. John Price. The quote actually belongs to Staff Sergeant Doug Oakley.

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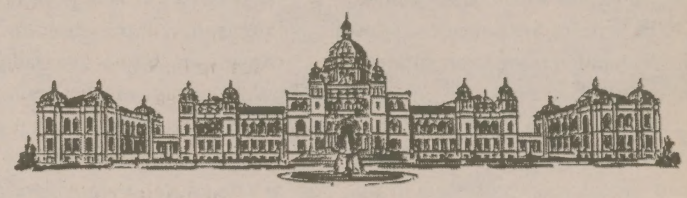

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A year after Seattle: a protester speaks

It took a declaration of martial law, hundred of canisters of tear gas, concussion grenades, rubber-coated bullets, and over 1000 National Guardsmen and US Army Special Forces troops for the meetings to proceed.

by Ben Isitt

On Nov. 30 last year, I watched the streets of Seattle flood with people: not just young, idealistic students like myself, but senior citizens, trade unionists, and other citizens – 50,000 people in total, there to protest against meetings of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Such scenes were supposed to be reserved for the 60s and oppressive 'Third World' dictatorships. But here it was, happening in my own backyard.

Along with 400 other Victorians, I made the journey to Seattle. Three thousands delegates from corporations and governments the world over met in the city to plot the course of international trade. But on the first day of the meetings, less than ten per cent of them made it into the convention centre. Citizens had blockaded the building, dividing the downtown centre into 13 pie-shaped sectors, and locking arms to keep the delegates out.

It took a declaration of martial law, hundred of canisters of tear gas, concussion grenades, rubber-coated bullets, and over 1000 National Guardsmen and US Army Special Forces troops for the meetings to proceed in the days ahead. I'm not exaggerating. The peculiar whiff of tear gas still lingers in my nostrils.

"Trade protest turns violent," the *Times Colonist* proclaimed on Dec. 1. I didn't quite understand. Somehow thousands of peaceful protesters standing up to corporations were considered violent, while warfare against the populace was not. When a small minority smashed windows in the wake of the police crackdown, heavy-handed repression suddenly had a justification.

But even with a 50-block "no protest zone" enforced in Seattle, and almost 1000 protesters in jail, the demonstrations were successful. When all was said and done, as the *Times Colonist* admitted on Dec. 5, "World trade talks break down."

The media will now tell you the WTO's Seattle talks failed because "poorer, developing nations" resisted the efforts of Western governments "to protect the environment and human rights." But the records of these governments tell a different story.

"I still very much believe in the mission of the WTO," said Sergio Marchi, Canada's former Liberal trade minister and our current ambassador to the WTO immediately after the failed meetings. "Seattle was only one of the downs on the long journey. But we are in much better shape than the headlines coming out of Seattle say."

"The WTO should have a corporate plan," Marchi said. "It should be worried about the WTO brand name. We did feel disappointed about the suspension, that we were unable to launch at this time. I am a firm believer that as Canada becomes even more successful in the trade game, that Canada's presence will become bigger as the world gets smaller."

Canada and the United States are among the foremost proponents of unrestricted free trade. Last week, both countries rejected proposals for reducing environmentally damaging emissions, leading to the collapse of a United Nations conference on global warming held in The Hague, Netherlands.

Under the new trade language, public hospitals and universities, environment and labour laws, and most other forms of government intervention in the economy are considered "barriers to trade." A public subsidy to UVic could be ruled illegal under the WTO, as it could be seen to unfairly discriminate against private education providers.

In the wake of the WTO protests, one participant wrote in the *Globe and Mail*: "Seattle is just the beginning."

Demonstrations against the International Monetary Fund and World Bank drew as many as 10,000 protesters to Washington, DC in mid-April.

Several thousands protested against a meeting of the Organization of American States held in Windsor, Ont. last May and against the World Petroleum Congress in Calgary last June.

Meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Prague this September drew tens of thousands, and protests against the G-20 meeting in Montréal in October resulted in pitched battles in the streets.

Since Seattle, a new global movement has emerged, shining the spotlight on the rising power and influence of corporations. But beneath the surface in many of these demonstrations – and in the minds of many participants – is a larger question, involving a word that seems to have fallen out of our vocabulary, that we aren't supposed to discuss: capitalism.

These protesters are often dismissed by opponents and corporate media organizations as "utopian," backward idealists who are resistant to the inevitable forces sweeping over the globe. Local, democratic control and ownership of the economy is impossible, free-trade advocates insist.

But what is the alternative? Government by Coca-Cola and Nike? The unregulated rule of private wealth? A perpetual race to the bottom, to the lowest common denominator of sweatshop labour and environmental destruction? To me at least, this appears to be the logic of the WTO and deals like it: restrict the ability of government to regulate economic activity. Dismantle the public sector to maximize private profit.

Still, the naysayers are right about something: one cannot criticize without putting forward solutions.

As I marched through the streets of Seattle last year, emotions of solidarity and empowerment rich in the damp November air, I knew what I was opposed to, but I had only a vague idea of what it was I wanted.

I have yet to come across a workable, democratic, 21st-century alternative to corporate globalization. Still, I believe solutions beyond capitalism exist. And I believe there is nothing utopian about attempting to arrive at such solutions.

On Nov. 30 at 6 pm the film "This is what Democracy looks like" will be shown in HSD 240. On Dec. 3, a celebration of Seattle involving films, stories, food, and music will take place at the Fernwood Community Assoc., 1923 Fernwood.

file photo

Protesters gather in downtown Seattle to oppose globalization.

Author speaks on Zapatista struggle in Mexico

by Angela Hill

According to journalist and author John Ross, Mexico needs a new leader who will provide "a radical redistribution of wealth."

Ross spoke at UVic on Nov. 24 as part of a North American speaking tour to advertise his third book, *The War Against Oblivion*. Based in Mexico City, Ross writes for six newspapers around the world.

The War Against Oblivion is a six-year history of the unrest taking place in Chiapas, a province in southern Mexico. The book begins with the Zapatista uprising when the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed on Jan.1, 1994.

It continues until July 2, 2000 when Mexicans voted for a new ruling presidential party. The Institutional Revolutionary Part (PRI) had been in power for seven decades.

The Zapatistas, members of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN in Spanish), are known as the men "without faces" and take their name from Ameliano Zapata, a peasant leader during the Mexican revolution in the 1910s who Ross describes as a "romantic figure on horseback."

photo submitted

A Zapatista in full regalia.

The Zapatistas fight for Mayan indigenous rights to self government and economy sovereignty. Ross says that in recent visits to Chiapas, he has seen "tragic events, comic events and events that make you sweat."

Ross says he thinks there is reason to be hopeful with the recent election of president Vicente Fox, saying he has "given the Mexican people hope, they now know that their opinions matter. He may not have the answers but he is the start of many changes." Ross describes Fox as a "businessman, a free trader... He used to be the head of Coca-Cola sales in Mexico."

When it comes to NAFTA, Ross is not hopeful.

"It has uprooted communities to work on assembly lines," Ross said. "They live in the desert with little water making $5 a day. Yes it brought jobs, but they are not good jobs."

John Ross wants people to know that the Zapatistas, these "people behind the masks," have fought for positive change, and that "la luche sega" – the struggle continues.

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Forgotten refugees losing hope of going home after 10 years in exile

by Carmel Ecker

United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) definition of a refugee: A person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.

Not far from the famous Himalayan Mountains, a forgotten people make their homes in Nepal's refugee camps.

Nearly 100,000 Nepali-speaking Bhutanese refugees live in seven camps in southeastern Nepal. They have been waiting for 10 years to hear someone say they can go home.

UNHCR leader Sadako Ogata uttered those words after an optimistic meeting last spring with a group of Bhutanese and Nepali officials. Ogata told the people they would be home in three months.

In June, a group of international volunteers arrived to assess the camps' most vulnerable families and individuals, such as the disabled, the elderly and the single mothers.

Their presence reinforced what the refugees already knew. They weren't going home anytime soon.

UVic child and youth care student Heather Fisher was one of the volunteers.

It was not an easy job, according to 23-year-old Fisher, a World University Service of Canada (WUSC) member who has traveled to Botswana and South Africa, working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on other aid projects. Those two projects, organized through WUSC had an educational focus that saw volunteers work closely with NGOs.

Fisher's work in Nepal, however, under the direction of the UN Camp Sadako Youth Awareness Program, was a little different. She worked independently with translators, interviewing people in the camp.

***

The Bhutanese refugees fled to Nepal after the 1985 Bhutanese government amended the Citizenship Act to discriminate against people living in south Bhutan.

The act was used in 1988 to declare southern Bhutanese illegal immigrants, followed in 1989 by the One Nation One People Policy, which banned all but the ruling western Bhutanese language, dress and culture.

In 1990, the people of southern Bhutan organized a mass rally to demand human rights and democracy. The Royal Bhutanese Army responded with arrests, torture, rape and other atrocities. Thousands of people fearing persecution fled to India and Nepal.

In a final effort to depopulate southern Bhutan, the government rounded up prominent citizens and, using torture, forced them to sign a Voluntary Migration Form.

Other citizens followed because of similar efforts and now they wait in camps where they have no rights and suffer from malnutrition and depression despite world relief organizations' efforts.

Bhutan and Nepal plan next month to have their tenth round of talks in as many years to try to resolve the refugees' situation.

***

An average day for Fisher began at 6 a.m. with a quick shower and big breakfast in the guest house provided for volunteers.

By 8 a.m., volunteers were at the UNHCR office waiting for trucks to drive them to one of the four refugee camps 15 minutes outside of town.

At the camp, volunteers met with their Nepali-speaking translators to go over the day's plan.

"At about 10 a.m., we begin our first home visit to interview a pre-selected family about their troubles and difficulties in the camps," Fisher writes.

"Today is an average day in Beldangi II camp and I am interviewing five very large families that appear to be more distressed than other families I have interviewed in other camps.

"As I walk from hut to hut conducting interviews, I notice that each of the families I interview complains about the poor quality of the rice rations and asks me to take a handful of rice and smell its repulsive odour.

"The heads of each of the families, all elderly men, break down in tears when I ask them to describe their difficulties in the camp, and a few recount how they were tortured in Bhutan before fleeing.

"One 64-year-old man living with his family of 13 tells me, amidst sobs, of how he was made blind through torture at the hands of the Bhutanese government.

"His nephew sits next to him wearing dark glasses to conceal his tortured eyes. He rests his severed right arm on his lap where I can see it. I don't have to ask him how he has become disabled.

"This is a particularly difficult day that shows many of the issues we face on a regular basis.

"At the end of the day, our team drives out of the camp in a convoy of white 4X4s [owned by the United Nations], waving to friends as we look forward to our showers, five-course evening meal and comfortable air conditioned rooms.

photo submitted

Daily life in the refugee camps. Water is available only four hours each day, for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening.

"The evening is spent in conversation with others in the group or in solitude, depending on each group member's reactions to the events of the day. I cry, write in my journal and debrief with two of the other team members, to renew myself for the next day."

This is the day Fisher remembers the most because it showed her just how desperate these people are.

"A refugee has nothing," she said, especially not political rights.

As part of the vulnerability assessment, each volunteer had a list of families and they were told not to interview anyone not on the list.

The list and assessment questions are the main reasons Fisher wishes she hadn't volunteered.

"I didn't feel this was going to help these people," she said.

'Why are you here?' some people asked her. She couldn't answer them.

"I decided if they stayed on or got taken off the list. I got to make that call" in spite of the fact that she and the other volunteers didn't speak the language, know the religion or understand the culture, said Fisher.

"Why not get people from Katmandu?" Fisher suggested, adding that local researchers would be a better way to collect the information the UN was looking for.

The program is designed to appease the counties who support the program, Fisher said, not to benefit the camps.

"What we did was detrimental," she said, because it undermined the existing community structures by valuing the opinions of visitors from western countries over those of the refugees or the workers who have been there since the early 1990s.

During the volunteers' reports to UNHCR officials, Fisher said, they didn't want to hear her feedback about the program. "They didn't want to hear what the refugees wanted to say."

The experience made Fisher question what she was doing in the camps and why westerners go where they don't belong, where they will only make a negative impact.

The catch is that the money from donor countries feeds, clothes and houses the people in the camps.

For this reason, the refugees are thankful for the UN's presence because "otherwise they would have nothing," said Fisher.

Volunteers are expected to go back home and raise awareness, which includes promoting the UN and the Camp Sadako project.

Fisher, however, is concentrating her promotional efforts on the Bhutanese refugees.

While Fisher was in Nepal, some of the refugees wrote poems and stories, which she brought back to Canada.

The following poem was written by 19-year-old Abi Chandra, who wants someone to sponsor his education, which otherwise will not go beyond grade 10. Chandra's parents died and he believes his education is the only way for him to support his four brothers and sisters.

He approached Fisher in Nepal and has e-mailed her since she returned to Canada, asking if she has found anyone to pay for his school.

Fisher doesn't know how he got access to e-mail.

MY HOPE IS DESPAIR
The world is a dark hole,
Where one cannot enter in it.
The World is a shadow of full moon,
Which one cannot feel and touch.
The world is a black coal,
Which one cannot think.

The world is a turbulent flow of water,
Which one cannot control it.
It is up and down motion of a wave,
Which one cannot cross it.
It is an apple at the top of a tower,
As distant's dream which one unable to reach.

The world is a drifting cloud,
That one is unable to touch.
The world is a rainbow.
Which vanishes if one goes near to it.
It is a sharp thorn of rose plant,
Which pricks whom he wants to pluck it.
It is a big and vast ocean,
In which one cannot swim.

Canada called a "fossil" at international climate change conference

by Darren Stewart

OTTAWA (CUP) – The Canadian delegation at the international climate change conference in Amsterdam holds the embarrassing honour of leading the pack in the "fossil of the day" awards.

The daily award is given out to the country voted most obstructive to the climate negotiations, as decided by hundreds of international scientists and environmentalists attending the two-week conference.

In an interview from the conference in Amsterdam on Thursday, Greenpeace campaigner Steven Guilbeault said the "foot dragging" of the Canadian delegation should be blamed on the federal government at home.

"To Jean Chrétien, climate change is a non-issue," he said.

Guilbeault said he's deeply disappointed in Canada, which he said should be taking a leadership role in the talks.

"This is sad," he said. "In the past we've been an environmental and international leader."

Delegates from the scientific community, business and governments from 180 countries are at the Conference of the Parties Six (COP 6) hoping to reach an agreement on how to deal with climate change globally. While a great majority of scientists and environmentalists in all countries agree that the problem needs immediate attention, much of the discussion has been bogged down by bureaucratic process.

Canada has consistently come under fire from environmental groups at home that say the delegation is dragging its feet and slowing progress on a number of issues.

Brenda Morehouse, a climate change expert from the Pembina Institute, said the delegation should be taking more of a leadership role.

"It would have been preferable for Chrétien to actually support this issue," she said. "I mean, since he's been in office, he's not had a very good environmental record so that does not put our negotiators in a very good bargaining position as far as the environment goes."

She added that Lloyd Axworthy isn't the most ideal leader of the delegation. The former foreign affairs minister is attending the conference in place of Canadian environment minister David Anderson, who decided to stay in Victoria to campaign for this week's federal election.

Axworthy told a news conference earlier this week that Canada takes climate issues very seriously and is bringing "very realistic, pragmatic, practical suggestions" to the conference table.

But environmental groups disagree and have given Canada fossil awards for what they call regressive views. The Canadian delegation is receiving substantial flak for trying to sell nuclear power as an acceptable alternative to coal burning and other carbon emitting energy generation methods.

"Clearly Canada has had a very active nuclear industry and we feel that they have a very safe product to provide energy supplies that is not a contributor to greenhouse gases," said Axworthy.

But Kristen Ostling, national coordinator for the Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout, laughed out loud at the suggestion that nuclear energy is clean energy.

"Nuclear power is not clean and economic," she said. "In addition to the intractable problem of nuclear waste and the risk of Chernobyl-type disasters, [Canadian nuclear] reactors are plagued by radioactive spills and routinely emit tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen."

Guilbeault said that Canada's attempt to include nuclear power has been an unpopular one.

"Canada is one of the only three countries of the 180 here that still supports nuclear power as a clean development mechanism," he said. "Even the United States doesn't support it."

But Axworthy disagreed with most concerns put forth by environmental groups.

"If we can resolve these issues, then I think the chances of progress at this conference will be substantially heightened," he said. "I think it's time we got off the ideological fence posts of taking extreme positions."

EDITORIAL:

Democracy: dead in the polls, alive on the streets

If you were skulking around Petch fountain last Friday afternoon, you may have caught a glimpse of some bodies on bikes. Nudie-patooties, that is, peddling their bicycles to promote action. A group of seven student activists got together to paint their butts and their boobs with slogans like Streak for Social Justice, Fight Apathy, and Boobs Not Bombs. It was stark-naked raving madness on display for one simple purpose: to ask people to wake up from their ho-hum day-to-day living and be consciously political.

Sure it was done for shock value. But the nudie circus – infused with raucous tunes from the radical cheerleaders – drew a quite a crowd. The question is, did the initial giggly surprise subside and make people think about democracy and their right to free speech and public protest, in particular? The event's organizers wanted people here at UVic to think about the effects of a life infused with apathy.

It could be argued that the timing was perfect for Monday's vote. It would force the most apathetic voters in the 18 to 24 age group to get themselves to a ballot booth. Or at least to think about why they weren't going.

More than anything, the event signaled a desire not to be a passive bystander to the nation's politics but to engage ourselves with honesty and spontaneity. If this election has taught us anything it is that the democratic process has become a spectacle of buffoonery intended to be beyond our reach. The leaders didn't talk about issues, they tried to distract and confuse us.

The bigger question is, has electoral politics become nothing but an exercise in maintaining the status quo?

Many of the radical activists in this country think so. Democracy is continually under attack in North America and North America is fighting back. The one-year anniversary of the protests against the World Trade Organization meetings in Seattle is coming up Nov. 30. The Seattle protests will go down as an example of our generation's most radical history making. People from all walks of life – unionists, feminists, anarchists, environmentalists, academics, and artists – took their boots to the gravel in a fierce display of resistance to corporate globalization as status quo. It was a public action that took mainstream North America by surprise with its energy – an unabashed criticism of corporate hegemony – and a beautiful display of individual thought and resistance.

The truth is, our system of transnational corporate capitalism is rife with all kinds of conspiracies and the WTO protests got more people questioning democracy.

Is our electoral system able to accurately represent the will of the voters? Are voters able to effect any change in the governing of our countries when the only sanctioned involvement is a visit to the polling booth every four years? Do you really think that the governing classes would allow or encourage anything that might possibly take their power away from them? Well, no.

The ruling class will do everything necessary to keep its power, and to fight them at all we need to work outside of their system. The electoral system is set up to make it hard to effect change. Take a look at the Election Canada television ads that falsely said, "If you're not on the list, you can't vote!" Who did that benefit, certainly not the average citizen who wants to voice their opinion.

This election has the dubious honour of having the worst turnout in 30 years and electing the same party for a third time.

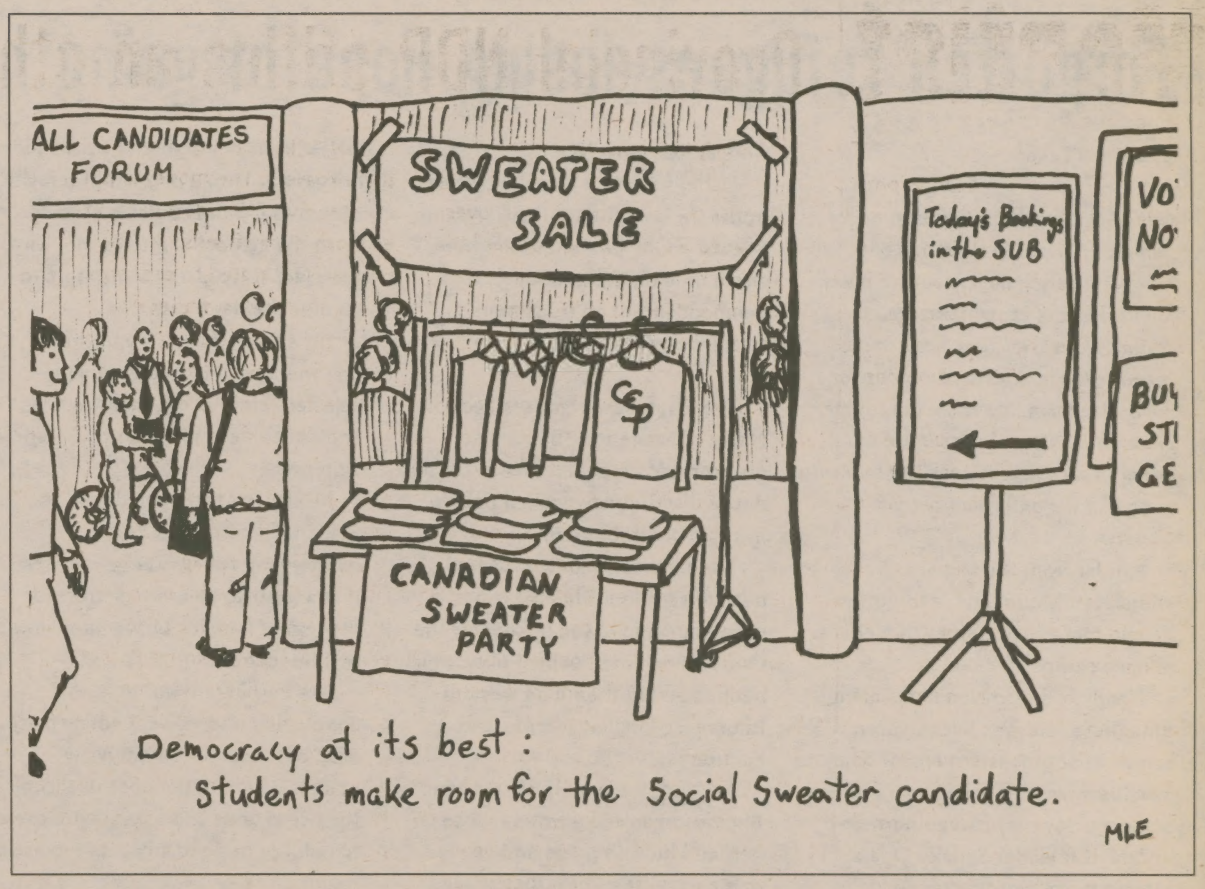
The protests in Seattle were a far better display of democracy than any election. The same can be said of protests in Washington and Windsor and Calgary and Prague and Philadelphia and LA and on and on. For many people, this election was a scramble to cauterize the worst sort of bloodletting by voting strategically to keep the Alliance out. The prospect of an Alliance government was scary not only because we knew what Canada could become but also because we were terrified it could actually happen and we couldn't do a damn thing about it. The ache underneath the Canadian Alliance Party and Stockwell Day in particular is about support for an incredibly repressive regime. Twenty-seven Alliance seats in B.C. is not a small voice, nor an inconsequential one. For anti-Alliance voters, this election was largely about electoral participation rooted in fear, fear of Stockwell, fear of the Canadians who support him and his party.

If you believe that it's important to participate in elections, then voting should be about nominating a person that you feel would speak best for you, because our system does not allow for individual voices. They are just too messy, to prone to complications, to prone to complex thoughts.

The next time you spot a pair of breasts saying Fight Apathy, listen up. Our action is our only recourse.

Go and see This is What Democracy Looks Like, *a film produced by the independent media center and big noise films about the WTO protests in Seattle. (Nov. 30, 6 p.m., HSD 240) The Fernwood Community Association is hosting a party for the anniversary Sunday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.*

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at noon in SUB B011. Editorals are written by one or more members of the staff, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.



LETTERS:

Date-rape pill misnamed

The only sources in the "date-rape pill" bust story are credited to the police – and it shows.

I know at least seven people, without asking around, who have done the drug, GHB, recreationally. I've also been to parties where people have been using the stuff. I've even known person who dealt the drug – a woman in fact. I doubt she was promoting date-rape.

GHB is a dangerous drug, and people shouldn't be making it in their bathtubs and selling whatever-they-might-produce without knowing what it will do to people. However, to call someone caught producing the pill a date-rape-pill producer is a little over-the-top based on the information we're given.

Angelica Montgomery

M. Collins rallies support

I'm not a fan of most of the views expressed in *the Martlet*, however, that M. Collins guy who always writes in has some awesome ideas and views. You guys should get more guys like him writing for you!

Kevin Stenner

Would you like some cheese with your whine, *Martlet*?

This is my fifth year at UVic and I am glad to say that as of next summer I will no longer have to read what you editors/publishers call a paper. I have been sick and tired during the past four years that my money has gone to publish something that strictly publishes articles that contain people whining about their problems and how broke they are because of student loans or how corporations are destroying the world. Yet, the UVSS was quick to jump as soon as Pepsi would offer them more money than Coke. Is that not capitalism? Why don't you write about something new for a change, I am tired of your whining and all of your socialist crap. There are a lot of other issues going on in the world – heck, even in Victoria – that are more relevant to us students. Capitalists are not the devils in society that you portray them to be and I am finally glad that someone is standing up to the crap that you write in there every week. I am referring to M. Collins. I fully support you M. Collins and free thinking individuals. Sincerely,

Chris Reid

Variety needed in *Martlet* views

I hear that the views of M. Collins are under attack. I realize that he is a little extreme right wing, but I enjoy reading his stuff and think it is good that UVic have a variety of views expressed – it makes us analyze our own views in more depth and, in turn, strengthens our beliefs and our understanding of our beliefs. I'm not sure what you were thinking of doing with M. Collins' material, but please don't get rid of it! It is one of the main reasons I read *the Martlet*! Anyway, I just thought, as a dedicated reader, I should share my view with you.

Thanks,

Cindy Shannon

US takeover of Great Canadian Movies

We saw a show recently on CBC about the life and times of Gordon Pinsent.

I thought it would be nice to see this Canadian movie which was filmed in Newfoundland. Gordon Pinsent wrote the screen-play. He tried to have a movie made starring himself. None of the American studios were interested; a fellow Canadian actor offered to produce this and did so. The movie is called *The Rowdy Man*. I wanted to rent it today. I have phoned nine video stores in Victoria. The last was named Great Canadian Video. When he said he did not have this movie I said you had better look under Foreign Movies since that is where I find Canadian movies in video stores. I told him he had better change the name of the store to Great American Movies. The more stores I called the madder I got, but after trying nine stores I gave up.

This shows how much this country is controlled by Americans. Americans own most theatres and apparently the video stores are under American control.

When you find Canadian movies in the foreign section, something is damn wrong with this country.

H. Maurice Raper

Commie-fascists overrun *Martlet*

I don't know if you have noticed lately, but a large number of your papers have ended up lining the stalls of the various bathrooms around UVic. You know, of course, that this is because your magazine as of late has turned to complete shit. Now I'm not sure if this is because of the complete communist takeover of your publication, or if you all are complete morons; needless to say, the diversity and creativity that has been expressed by your staff lately is comparable to that of the writers of a Britney Spears/N'SYNC album. The one thing in your paper that has at least a half ring of truth and realism is the Mollins cartoon. I too believe that your magazine is half fiction and half fascism (and not the good half). So keep up the good work (you understand sarcasm don't you?).

Scott Whitely

In the name of political correctness

I would like to appeal through the pages of *the Martlet* to all the students who have ever been bored to death by some novel that some professor in the English Department has imposed in some course or another.

I am doing some research on the so-called "canon" of English literature (though Canadian and American literature will do just as well). Ideally, I would like to hear reactions, whether positive or negative, about:

1. texts that, in your opinion, have appeared in courses only for the sake of political correctness. That is, texts that would never have made it on to a university curriculum but for the presence in our midst of political correctness; or

2. a whole course that may have been created in the name of political correctness.

Please direct replies to trevorw@uvic.ca

Trevor Williams

AGREE... DISAGREE... RANT... ARGUE...
EXPRESS... SCREAM... WHISPER...

however you express yourself... we would like to hear from you.
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MONOLOGUE:

Provincial NDP stifles an otherwise rich economy

by Patrick McClarty

Last month, in a flurry of hype over the appearance of a high-profile social democrat, Premier Ujjal Dosanjh arrived at UVic to the supreme enjoyment of the Ivory Tower set. When Dosanjh was announced as our elected premier, I almost gagged.

Our premier in all his wisdom proceeded with the Sermon on the Mount and delivered our academic souls from hell with the promise of new tuition freezes. He also waxed philosophical about the long-term possibility that the province would cut tuition rates and create a system of free university education.

And, being the opportunist he is, Dosanjh took the time to berate his opponents in a public setting while he still could. Within the next year, it is entirely possible that Dosanjh and most of the NDP will be decimated and never heard from again, except in a "Where Are They Now?" special on Chek 6.

Dosanjh first waded into the tax cut promises made by the B.C. Liberals, asking that if taxes are cut, then where, pray tell, is the money for social spending going to come from? This presents one of the first fallacies of a socialist government who assumes that tax revenues are a zero-sum game. That is, he assumes that zero economic growth occurs and to have greater tax revenues, one must tax the people to death. Negative/zero growth might be the norm under a repressive tax and spend government (like the NDP), but this is not necessary.

The truth, however, which is harder for the left wing to swallow than Buckley's, is that tax revenues, even in the short-run, increase with a cut in taxes. (See the Ontario government tax policies.)

In economics, a class our premier must have either skipped or failed, it is called the multiplier effect. Even small cuts in taxes will free up money to be spent and re-spent by the taxpayers. The money is put back into the public hands and rapid economic growth ensues. The money is relocated to economically viable enterprises, rather than government-backed winners; we all know how great the NDP is at picking winners. And even the most slow-witted NDPer will admit that 50 per cent tax on a tiny pie is not as great as a 10 per cent tax on a huge one.

Dosanjh's language reveals his attitudes towards the people of this province. He uses the tone of the all-encompassing, all-knowing patriarch who knows what is best for the province. He assumes that when the government legislates tax cuts – which the NDP almost never does – they are giving tax breaks to the people.

Giving?

Taxes, contrary to popular belief, are not the property of government. This is money not given to government, but entrusted to elected leaders for the public good. The assumption that our government owns our salaries, the money in our pockets and our savings, is insulting and scary. We are not free people under the assumption that the state assumes our welfare, thinking, health and money are their concern. Self-responsibility is a virtue: forget the opposing socialist myth.

Another part of his speech that made less sense than a Green Party policy debate, was the insistence that taxes did not contribute to the brain drain. Mr. Premier hit the nail on the head when he said people move to the US because of opportunity, and not directly because of lower personal taxes.

However, in the US the low personal and business taxes not only encourages businesses to stop, drop, and then set up shop, but low personal taxes help foster productivity gains which create economic growth, thus creating greater opportunity. His contrary anecdotal evidence of some friend he knows coming back to Canada after being in the US hardly compares with the new statistics of 65,000 educated Canadians leaving for the US in the last year. As for "anecdotal" evidence, I am positive anyone can count the numerous talented friends who have left for the US with both a premier and prime minister pushing them to the border.

The people of this province are not in need of more government intervention. The people of this province (save the sons and daughters of treason-embracing, draft-dodging socialists from the US) are in need of the freedom to live their lives the way they want, without a father figure like the NDP party expecting our love and praise when they freeze tuition and then cut funding. The NDP waste our taxes, crank up the debt, put our resource economy on the fritz, and scare every potential investor out of B.C. and into Alberta, the Silicon Valley and everywhere else that welcomes individuals and companies with an entrepreneurial spirit.

Our premier goes on to say that B.C.'s economy could be surging just like Alberta's, but B.C. has made the decision to be environmentally friendly. We could open up the oil reserves off the coast of B.C., which have a revenue potential of $110 billion dollars. But of course B.C. has made the decision to leave the oil fields alone. Has the province made this decision? Or has Dosanjh made this decision? He never consulted his own caucus: they were caught totally flat-footed. Most of the people of B.C. (including his own party members) were expecting careful consultation with the public, in addition to independent research. But hey! It's an un-elected left-wing politician being an autocrat: it's as surprising as the plot of an Adam Sandler movie.

The reality is, no matter how much the left wing will wince at these words, the ending of the moratorium on oil exploration and the careful, regulated extraction of that oil will positively help this province like no other decision.

People in northern cities who have been displaced by the Nisga'a treaty, the blocking of Alcan's KCP 2 project, the Forest Renewal B.C. plundering, and the implementation of complex stumpage fees will once again be able to find employment. While some do not value productivity and actual employment (you know who you are), such things save humans from the three evils of boredom, vice and need.

Although completely irrelevant to this government, the NDP has absolutely no mandate to be making any new legislation from now until the next election. After the disgrace of scandal after scandal, the "fudge-it budgets," the fast ferries, the doubling of debt, "casinogate," heavy regulation, the KCP 2 debacle, the very fact they have Moe Sihota as a member, extensive corporate welfare, and the unbelievable arrogance of Harcourt/Clark/Miller/Dosanjh, the NDP should shed its pretense of honourable, responsible government and fade from the spotlight with whatever dignity they can hold on to.

The party is running the remainder of its term running up government union wages for the next government to deal with, and snowing the public with its "balanced budget" which somehow added 1.3 billion to the provincial debt (Is Garth Drabinsky their accountant?). Dosanjh can come to UVic and buy the student vote with taxpayers money, but while the Ivory Towers may love him, in the real world of taxes, employment, pragmatism and results, the mobs are growing.

STUDENT VOICE:

Health care 'crisis' not solved by private clinics

by A. Steele

I have a number of serious long-term illnesses. I have to admit that I rely heavily on the health care system. Fortunately, B.C. currently has Canada's best health care system. A number of months ago, I woke to discover I'd gone blind. I went to my doctor immediately. I saw an Ophthalmologist three hours later. In two weeks, I was booked in for surgery. I'm nothing special from anyone else – this is the way things really are. I've since finished the surgery, and have my vision back. No special clinics, no huge fees, nothing.

The reason I speak from personal experience is that I have noted that when the public are complaining about the system, they are almost always speaking anecdotally, not from experience. They quote things they've heard on the news, such as the lady here in B.C. who needed a liver and couldn't get a bed that day. I don't hear many people talking about how she got another liver two weeks later.

This poor woman was just a pawn in the agenda the doctors are pushing. By the way, if her doctor was any good, he would have sent her to Mt. St. Joseph's Hospital, not Vancouver Hospital. Mt. St. Joseph's is one of the most under-utilized hospitals I know of in Vancouver.

Yes, there are some problems with provincial health care, such as a nursing shortage. The nursing shortage, however, is a global problem, not just a provincial or a federal problem. That is why the US and other countries keep trying to entice our nurses – they are also short of nurses themselves.

I have always got a bed when I've had to go into the hospital, either via emergency or pre-booked surgery. I can also say that I've never waited in the emergency more than a half hour before being taken in.

I've asked around to many friends, and asked them about their personal experiences, to see if my theory held true. Every single one of them said they have never had a problem with the system.

Now here's the dangers of allowing private clinics. My father needed eye surgery and his doctor told him that there could be a waiting list of about a year or so, but if he wanted it done faster, he could go to a clinic in Alberta (we live in B.C.) at a cost of several thousand dollars. My father is 86 years old and felt he needed the surgery pretty quickly so he and my mother started figuring out how they were going to come up with that kind of money. It would have killed them.

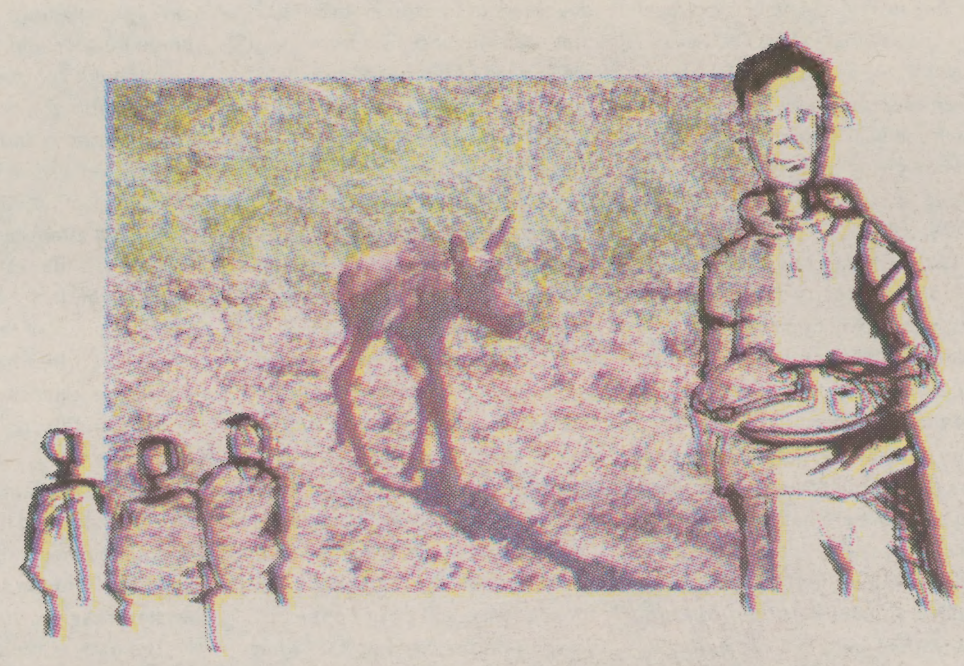
I was able to talk some sense into them and diffuse some of the stress and anxiety that the doctor had created, and they agreed to wait a bit before giving further thought about the Alberta clinic. Three weeks later – not one year later – my father was having his eye surgery done here in B.C. I have found over and over from personal experience that doctors often quote the longest waiting period rather than realistic time estimates.

Another problem with private clinics – and Alberta is particularly guilty of this – is that the provincial health authority can state limitations on how many of a given surgery are permitted in a year and to what extent. In Alberta, they do not cover eye surgery any more. An example of how this may look if privatization is allowed to take over would be like this: as a fictitious (and ridiculous) example, they could say they cover dentures, but only wooden ones.

You'd need to go to a special clinic for anything else, and that would be incredibly expensive. Or, yes, they will pay for a prosthetic hand, but only a hook. If you want anything else, you go private and pay.

Federal transfer payments should be identified as health care dollars, social services dollars and equalization dollars, as it used to be.

This forces accountability on the part of the provinces and guarantees uniformity of services among the provinces. We need to encourage people to enter into nursing by offering nursing education tuition free – not grants, not loans, none of that. We can afford it. We can't afford not to.



One hundred and fifteen kilometres south east of Whitehorse in Atlin, the most north westerly settlement in B.C., I am sitting on the painted plywood floor of a trapper's cabin about the size of a suburban walk-in closet.

First Moose Hunt

by Liz Gontard

When I was a little girl my father had a book about living in the bush. It was a small, brown hard cover book with gold lettering on the spine: *How to Survive in the Bush*. Inside there were pencil drawings, step-by-step instructions on how to build a log cabin and how to build your life in the bush. I coveted that book, just as I coveted Grey Owl's stories and read them obsessively, the same way other girls read Nancy Drew. I dreamed the same dream my father spoke of when it was just the two of us on Sunday nights in the living-room: selling the bungalow in the suburbs, getting some land, building a log cabin, having some chickens and a garden, hunting for my food.

Fifteen years later, after giving up my suburban existence a year and a half ago, taking off with my husband to the most remote corner of northern B.C., building a log cabin and a small greenhouse, I am about to fulfill the rest of my dream and become a subsistance hunter.

One hundred and fifteen kilometres south-east of Whitehorse in Atlin, the most north westerly settlement in B.C., I am sitting on the painted plywood floor of a trapper's cabin about the size of a suburban walk-in closet while the generator drones outside. The aspens are bare, there is a fresh dusting of snow on the peaks at six thousand feet. It is late September and I am about to watch a video on how to dress a moose kill. The presenter says we will need a tarp, plenty of extra-large game bags, a come-along, a hatchet or carpenter's saw, rope, thin line and sharp knives.

The following morning my husband Chris and I arrive at a homestead that our friend is care-taking. We are about to practice the art of dressing a moose kill on a nanny goat. The goat is lead to a patch of clover where it's killed with one rifle shot to the head. Like students in an open-air science lab, Chris and I execute textbook procedures: proper incisions, skinning, removal of organs, location of joints, their separation and de-boning. We skin and quarter the goat in less than an hour. We congratulate ourselves on our efficiency. The man in the video said it takes eight hours to dress the average adult moose.

It's early evening on the first Monday of October, the mountain peaks are white-capped and snow reaches into the treeline. I am tracking a moose cow and her calf: they've left a distinct trail through the woods, twinned piles of skat, the mother's droppings twice the size of her calf's. It's a well-worn trail that crosses an old mining road, winds through black spruce, aspen and mountain alder; the moose have chewed the branches of arctic willows. The skat is very fresh, when crushed between my fingers the pellets are still damp inside. It smells sweet, the way horse dung does.

We've set up camp by the lake. For the last five days we've woken before sunrise and hiked into the bush.

Chris follows me more to humour my new-found tracking skills than with genuine belief that I will lead us to a moose. It has been three weeks since we watched the moose-dressing video and this is our second attempt at a hunt.

We've set up camp by the lake. For the last five days we've woken before sunrise and hiked into the bush and up a nearby hill that is a good vantage point to survey the surrounding area. We've seen spruce and ruffed grouse, eagles and snowshoe hare skat. We've found a few unidentifiable bones. We've discovered a couple of small alpine lakes not marked on the topo maps. We've come across depressions in tall grass where a large animal has slept, but we haven't caught sight of a single moose or even heard a bull call. Tracking the cow and calf is a diversion from the endlessness of nature that threatens to become boring: waking in the chill before sunrise, following the same crooked game trails through the woods and up the mountain sides, walking the same ridge, seeing the same piles of skat, all the while surrounded by a silence that is interrupted by the occasional bird call and the rustle of our packs and the sound of our voices repeating the same things.

"You hungry?"

"Yeah. You?"

We come to the edge of the woods: not thirty feet away from us, the cow and calf stand one behind the other in the middle of a clearing. We are down-wind and they do not smell or see us. I decide to give the call a try and see if I can interest a bull moose who might be following the cow. I raise my cupped hands to my mouth: the call rises, a nasal sound pitched like an arc that falls away with a quiet grunt. There's no response. I call again.

The bull responds with a sound so loud, so terrifying, so close, that I feel my bowels contract. His call is a deep grunt that seems to make the trees shake.

illustrations by Darian Kovacs

This time the bull responds with a sound so loud, so terrifying, so close, that I feel my bowels contract. His call is a deep grunt that seems to make the trees shake. It makes me want to piss, shit and vomit all at the same time. He calls again. Chris pokes me to reply. I tell him to screw himself and press my back against a tree trunk: among the many hunters' myths is the one about the passion-crazed bull that gored the hunter who called it in with a mock love-call and I have no intention of giving any substance to the myth.

The bull is knocking his antlers against tree trunks and branches. He is very close. I see Chris load his rifle. It's getting dark and that seems to amplify the sound of the bull moving in the woods. I know he's close, I just can't tell where he is. We stand for what seems like hours, but it can only be minutes, waiting for the bull to call again, to make some sound or show himself.

The cow and calf are the first to move, they meander slowly into the woods and disappear. Chris and I walk back to our camp, watchful of every shadow, every branch cracking in the bush around us.

The following afternoon we gather the things we will need for the hunt: rifle, ammunition, bear flares, bear spray, rope, the come-along, the hatchet, a tarp, game bags, knives, sharpening stone, fishing line, snacks, two thermos' of hot broth, first-aid kit, extra clothes, headlamps. We pack everything into two old frame packs my father used to use when he went duck hunting.

It is five o'clock and we are eating an early dinner of instant-noodle soup. Chris doesn't believe that we'll get the moose. I tell him to eat a good helping because we are going to need all the energy we can get. The certainty in my voice convinces him to eat a second helping.

Our plan is to hike to the clearing where we saw the cow and calf and then wait. Our adrenaline is pumping and despite our loaded packs we reach the clearing in a speedy 20 minutes. I don't even have to attempt a call: the bull stands in profile to us in the centre of the clearing as if he has been waiting. Chris slowly removes his pack. The bull is down-wind, he raises his nose in the air and sniffs.

I have never been this close to a bull moose before, I want to absorb every detail in this moment when time seems suspended. The bull is as big as a horse, his antlers are not trophy-sized; stunted tines sprout from the edges of the palms. He can't be that old, three or four years probably and he is standing perfectly still, every muscle taut. Chris loads the rifle.

The moose is searching the air with his nose. Chris levels his rifle at the moose's chest. I catch myself whispering, "Don't."

Chris fires the shot. The moose takes a couple steps forward, I hear Chris whisper, "Shit." We are both afraid the shot was off and now we'll have to track an injured animal through the bush. Chris tells me to stay put as he approaches the bull. The moose's forelegs buckle and he falls onto his side, legs kicking. When the moose's body is finally still, Chris fires two shots, one to bull's head, the other to its heart.

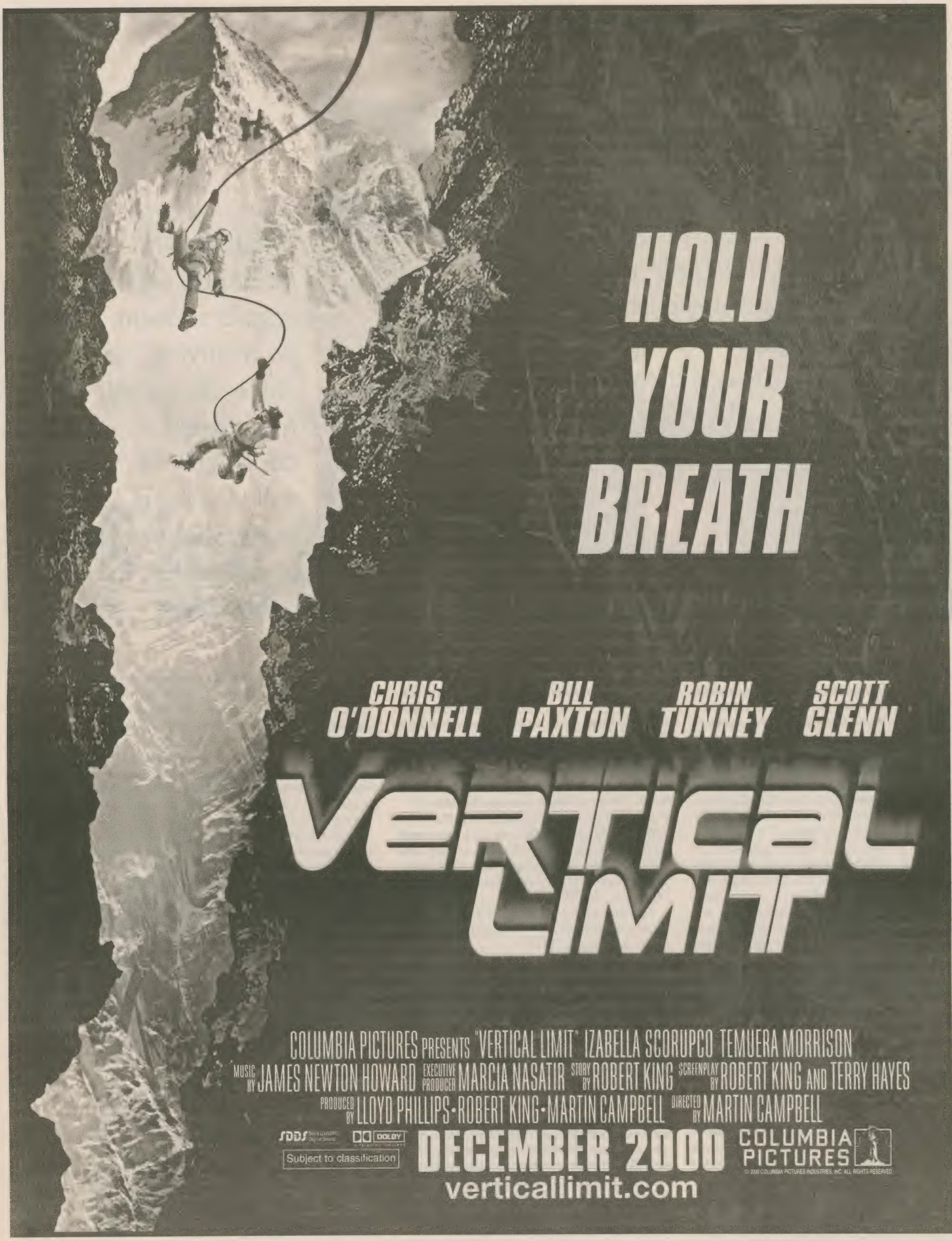
We don't have much time, it will be dark in less than two hours, and we want to get as much work done as possible in the daylight before we have to use headlamps. We follow the video's instructions: we pull the moose onto his back and peg his legs out, fastening them to stakes we've planted in the ground. An incision below the ribcage and down to the crotch, the tip of the blade tight to the skin so as not to pierce the stomach lining and risk spoiling the meat. His stomach balloons out from the incision. We tie off the esophagus and urinary track with four short pieces of line and cut in between the tie-off points. We empty the abdominal cavity, locate the heart, kidney, liver and place them in a game bag on the tarp where we've laid out our tools. The pelvic bone must be broken to remove the moose's penis and balls.

The axe head sends bone splinters flying and we wish we'd brought a saw along. Skinning is best done with our most narrow bladed knife, the flesh separates with ease from the hide. It's while skinning that we are forced to turn on our headlamps. We skin one side then the other. The hide is removed from the moose without a tear, we can hardly believe our skill. We locate the joints, quarter, and de-bone him, then placed the quarters in game bags. I make sure to remove the tongue and place it in the bag with the other organs. We have spent five hours dressing the bull. We are exhausted.

The last thing we take from the carcass are the antlers. Chris wants to hang them in the cabin so the spirit of the moose will guard us. They are difficult to remove and for the second time we wish we'd taken the carpenter's saw instead of the hatchet that thumps uselessly against the skull. Chris manages to remove the antlers and we begin the task of carrying out.

We had been warned about the amount of blood, that there would be so much blood: I'd prepared myself for an unstoppable outpouring, but in the beam of the headlamps it was impossible to notice anything, except what was directly ahead of me. The next morning I examine our clothes. Mine are hardly stained. Chris' sweatshirt is stiff with blood. I notice a smudge of red on my grey leather boots and try to rub it away. It seems indelible and only darkens the more I rub.

Liz Gontard is a student in UVic's writing department. Her first moose kill was also her last.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"VOTE! Vote for sustainability; when the big parties lose votes to apathy they just laugh, but when they lose even 10% of the vote to green parties then they freak and spout threats of apocalypse and even the bigwigs get good things done. We need living forests for survival and if it seems futile, or even overwhelming, bit by bit, WE ARE GETTING THINGS DONE."

Victor Campbell, extract from "Gettin' things Done"

by Neil Comer

UVic's literary talents graced the stage last Sunday evening at the James Bay Inn. Seasoned literary veterans, new faces and a wide variety of voices and genres made the night enjoyable for everyone.

Showcasing the works of students from the writing department, the reading was a starting ground for new writers, including Shelley Chalmers, Mercedes Bitz-Benet and Gabrielle Nolan. Starting fresh for some readers also meant breaking ground with the audience. The fourth year writing and photography student had the crowd laughing with her creative non-fiction piece, "Prairie Girl." Her story was a well-crafted satirical jab at male bonding, which told the story of the hunting relationship break-up between her father and his buddy Jim.

Hailing from Mexico, fourth year poetry and film enthusiast Mercedes Btiz-Benet recounted the Mexico earthquake in her poem, "1985." Her reading was a slow precision that beautifully translated the feeling of that petrifying moment.

Also present were Victor Campbell, Ben Redhead, Rob Woolridge, Liz Gontard, Bren Simmers, Ryan Cracknall, and Heather Walker – young faces but old pros in the Writing program. Victor Campbell quit school at age 13 to become a baker, and as he put it, "baked his way around the globe." However, his evening's reading was not to be a tribute to yeast and bread. Campbell kicked off the night with an enthusiastic reading that sent an election-eve charge through the crowd. Fusing the serious with the playful, his performance poem was a spurt of playful energy that spoke of political apathy in a dynamic voice.

Ben Redhead gave the audience another look at political issues with his reading of his poem "Souvenir, Breathing." The poem brought forth soulful emotion with narration of the story of 900 World War II Jewish refugees who traveled overseas to North America. These refugees were turned away at the Canadian and American ports. Ben's writing made apparent how a poem can transcend the political and become personal.

Ryan Cracknall followed Shelly Chalmers' lead with his own whimsical creative non-fiction piece called "Canker Sorrow". It was a self-effacing story about family break-up that won over the crowd with its honest reading.

The James Bay Inn poetry series runs every Sunday at 8 p.m.

Matthew Good Band: A Good relationship with fame

Good talks about his band's music, upcoming release, and why he likes to fuck with people's minds

by Annalisa Blake

Matthew Good has always had an uncomfortable relationship with fame. He controls this discomfort in a unique manner. He fucks with minds.

"That's no secret," he says. "Before I got into this business, I was one of those people who went largely unnoticed in the world, and I kinda liked it that way."

Good may have ended up a starving folk musician, were it not for a sudden turn of creative direction initiated by a Pixies cd and an onstage fainting spell while on tour with his folk band in the early 90s. Good left the world of folk music behind in search of something a little more intense.

Despite his aversion to fame, it has certainly been no stranger to him over the past few years. His band's current record, *Beautiful Midnight*, has gone platinum in Canada and is scheduled for a US release in January. Just this September, the band's "Strange Days" video was in lead position on the MuchMusic countdown list. Their award list includes four recent awards in the Georgia Straight Reader's Choice Music Awards for Favorite National Group, Favourite National CD, Favourite National Single and Favourite National Video. With such a variety of music awards in his collection, Matt Good has more than a few "paper weights" (as he calls them) to show for his efforts.

With work on his fourth full-length album in full swing, Matt Good seems to be in good spirits.

"By the time this album comes out, I'll be sick and tired of it," he says. "But making records is the funniest part of my job, always has been always will be."

"Every record you make is kind of an unconscious traumatic episode. It's something you kind of do for two or three months and you come out the other end with all this stuff," Good explains. "I stay here all day till I can't keep my eyes open. I go home, I walk into my house, fall asleep and then I come back here. It's a blur, it's all just a blur."

The band's upcoming album, which has yet to be named, will likely be another surprise from the band. Good is excited about the change.

"It's a different record; different sounding and different thematically," says Good.

What will the theme be?

"Well, mostly about me going crazy," says Good. Maybe all the fame and fortune is getting to him.

But success clearly has its benefits. The success of the band's early albums made it possible for them to get full creative freedom when they signed on to A&M records, and later Universal. Good enjoys his vantage position.

"No one tells me what to do. I've worked long and hard at fucking putting myself in a position where nobody could tell me what to do. No one in my record label has even heard any of the songs that we're recording; they just give me money to do it. And as far as criticisms go, I could give a shit about what anybody thinks of what I do. You waste your life by living under the conditions that somebody else puts forward for you. If I were looking to do that, I would go get a normal nine to five job."

Nine to five jobs are nowhere on the horizon for anyone in this band. Matt hopes to put out at least a few more albums before he throws in the towel.

"We're all 30 but we're not that old. I'd say we'd make another five records, maybe more; it all depends on our musical temperament. For our last album, we had really shitty relationships with our record companies. I basically sabotaged both of them to get off them because I didn't want anything to do with them. We've finally found a label we're happy working with."

Their success in the US market may also be on the rise. Having finally set up a solid record deal with US label Atlantic, things are looking up. However, no one is certain of the reception the Matthew Good Band will receive south of the border. *Beautiful Midnight* went platinum within days of its release in Canada, but it's hard to say how the album will do when released in January of next year in the US.

According to Good, there is a common misconception that Canadian bands can't make it in the US. Although he is happy with the band's success in Canada, he says there is no reason why they should not be able to do well in the States.

Good does not think fans should be kinder to Canadian bands just because the bands produce sub-standard music. He is also quick to acknowledge that great Canadian bands get completely ignored.

photo provided

We may be living in a bad time for music, but apparently it hasn't affected Good in any negative ways. His band still seems to be on the way up. He may one day even surpass the likes of the Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears.

"What kids buy these days is what baffles the living shit out of me," says Good. "I mean, for something like the Backstreet Boys – it moves me emotionally in negative numbers."

This comment is reflective of Good's reputation within the music industry. Known to be one of the most notoriously opinionated men in the world of Canadian rock music, Good certainly shares his opinions freely.

The majority of Good's songs deal with serious, complex issues that often relate to the North American way of life.

"The truth of the matter is I'm incapable of writing what normal people would call a happy song. Lyrically, I have a really big problem with cheese."

In addition, Good publishes a manifesto of his thoughts on the Internet every month.

"I've been writing those since I was nine, long before I got into this business. Putting them on the net, that was somebody else's idea entirely. I knew nothing about the Internet at the time, the manifestos will be soon be coming out in a book and will be taken off the Net."

Good's manifestos deal with the same dark subject matter as his songs. However, his message is not always clearly understood in both mediums.

"I enjoy fucking with people," says Good. "I enjoy living in a day and age where people are too dim to know they're even being fucked with. I think that in Grade 12, they should start making Chomsky mandatory reading, that might be the only way to enlighten people."

Despite his outspokenness, Good doesn't feel he's in any position to completely change the attitudes and lifestyles of people.

"People don't understand that change is not something that's brought about by impassioned people," says Good. "Only history can change things. It takes time for people to get their heads out of their asses. If that wasn't the case, then the world would be a perfect place."

It seems that no matter what career Good chose, he would have ended up somewhere he could speak his mind.

"I should have been a history professor. To sit around and talk about twentieth century history all day would have been the shit, I would much rather run into someone who can remember the historical impact of something significant and important than someone who can still do quadratic equations. But in a way, he's still teaching some important lessons to anyone who's willing to listen, and there certainly are a lot of people who are."

It's all about listening with Matthew Good. So while enjoying Good's new album, listen carefully to every thing he sings. In the meantime, take everything in this interview with a grain of salt. You just might be too dim to know if he's fucking with you.

> What kids buy these days is what baffles the living shit out of me, I mean, for something like the Backstreet Boys – it moves me emotionally in negative numbers.
>
> *Matthew Good*

"I think Canadians have an inferiority complex when it comes to music. I think a lot of bands fold when they find success in Canada; they just fucking fall to pieces cause they can't handle it. Playing music here is no different than playing it anywhere else; people listen to music, we play it for them. It all depends, I mean we're living in a really bad time for music."

A Postcard from campus: The Clearihue wind vortex

by Rolf Harrison

"The wind turns in silent frenzy upon itself, whirling into a smoking funnel, breathing up top soil and tumble-weed skeletons to carry them on its spinning way over the prairie, out and out to the far line of the sky."

– *Who Has Seen the Wind*, W.O. Mitchell

Gusts of wind skip along the Clearihue building, lofting yellow-gold leaves past the computer lab windows and the cream-coloured south wall. Where the wall ends, the air spirals into a vortex, a twisting column that funnels fallen leaves of white oaks and tulip trees down into a tidy pile upon the cement, a few feet from the tarnished plaque dated 1963.

For 37 years, the building's southeast corner below the clock tower has been one of the best places in Victoria to observe what some call a wind vortex. Others also call this a mini-tornado, eddy or dust devil.

Where the wall ends, the air spirals into a vortex, a twisting column that funnels fallen leaves of white oaks and tulip trees down into a tidy pile upon the cement...

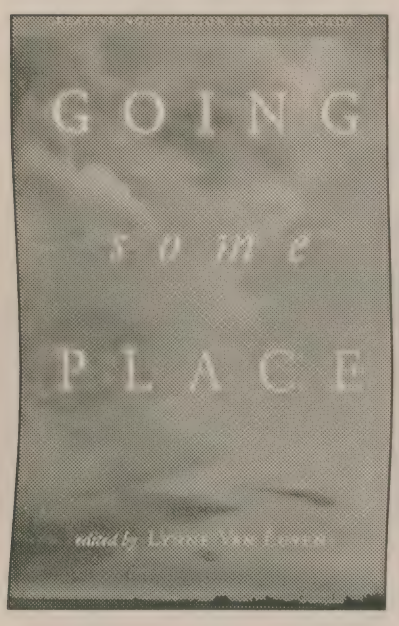
The momentary phenomenon is most noticeable on a breezy day in autumn. Last week it deposited a pile of leaves big enough for a football to hide in. This week there might be another pile, if one of the maintenance crew's sweeper machines does not swallow it first.

Wind usually scatters, diffuses and strews. It is the force that makes raking leaves a tough job and pissing in the wrong direction an uncomfortable mess. Clearihue's south wall though, is perfectly positioned to channel the wind to gather, funnel and rake fallen leaves.

If you stir tea leaves in a mug, they swirl round for a second before heaping together at the bottom. Fallen leaves in a wind's vortex work the same way. The leaves circle round an updraft of air, held by opposing forces of centrifugal force and the pressure gradient. When the leaves reach the ground, friction reduces their velocity and the pressure gradient wins out, pushing the leaves into a pile.

Along Victoria's shorelines, (micro) storm chasers watch the ocean produce tiny whirlpools, called "witches brew." From planes, they look down on tidal flows and patterned vortex streets in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. At the University of Victoria, they observe the Clearihue wind vortex sweep the leaves.

Going Some Place doesn't get there



by Tom Howell

Books, like wine, are a matter of taste. Try a few sips of *Going Some Place*, a collection of creative non-fiction edited by UVic's own Lynne Van Luven. Roll them around in your mouth. Spit or swallow; it's up to you.

"If similes were to be stretched whimsically and the form of writing known as creative non-fiction were to be likened to a bird, it would surely be deemed a magpie." – Van Luven, introduction.

"Rock is simply unavoidable in these tight, rippling valleys, and its configurations impose limitations that are insurmountable, even to the most clever of human beings." – Eileen Delahanty Pearkes, author of *Stone Journey*.

"I watch his features crease with pain, frown with sorrow, soften with regret, and I know I will never learn from him whatever it is I think I need to know." – Wayne Grady, "Heart Failure."

If you like these sentences, you will enjoy this book. If you don't, you won't. Having tasted every sentence in this book, I'll sadly admit that I'm a "spitter."

Going Some Place is based on a good idea: Van Luven showcases the genre of creative non-fiction using a mixture of new and established Canadian writers. The book contains more good ideas, from the introductory remarks on how creative non-fiction mixes private with public, imagination with actuality, to the attempts by 25 writers to wrestle real-life grief and struggle into brief personal essays.

The writers take risks. In "Light on the Land," Rita Moir recovers from the death of her pet dog by visiting Shirley Scott-Bruised Head, whose daughter has died in a car crash. The two women share the job of telling their story as they walk around a river valley in southern Alberta. It's interesting to read two writers at once, and the odd technique succeeds in creating a single story about pain and friendship.

Another risk-taker is Sue Walsh, a graduate of UVic's writing program. Her essay, "White Girl Screaming," exposes the fear and racism that she absorbed as a child in South Africa. "[In] my distorted mind's eye," she writes, "the likelihood of an intruder breaking into my home being black is disproportionately high."

Going Some Place is full of good ingredients. Several contributors are well-known poets, playwrights or fiction writers, such as Kate Braid, Myrna Kostash and Margaret Hollingsworth.

What spoils the brew for me is vague language, some unsatisfying essay structures and, above all, wordiness. These faults afflict nearly all the writers. Perhaps in an effort to fix the label "creative" to their non-fiction, they veer towards adjective-heavy sentences stuffed with lugubriously long words. This might not irritate all readers. But those who want to see the crease, frown and softening of a dying father's brow without being told which movement means pain, regret or sorrow will find this book frustrating. They will remain unaffected by an essay that describes rocks in terms of the insurmountable limitations the configurations impose.

As in any collection, the quality varies among the writers. I particularly liked the narratives of Kate Braid, Merilyn Simonds and, despite my criticism, Wayne Grady. I like the book's intentions, but I am also disappointed. I had hoped this book would intoxicate me with fine writing, and it didn't.

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Photo Courtesy of UVic Maltwood Museum

Gesher Project evokes the personal side of history

by Debbie Willis

Whenever the Holocaust is mentioned, an image of Reina, my older relative, flashes across my mind. I had been invited to pick cherries for an afternoon in her backyard. Climbing the ladder to the top of the tree in the slick, Ontario heat and squeezing cherries between my fingers is paralleled in my mind with the image of Reina's hand, missing a thumb. Like any eight-year-old, I was overcome with curiosity. *Why*, I asked. The only explanation given were the words, "concentration camp."

The art showcased in *The Gesher Project* evokes these memories of Reina. Showing in the University Centre Maltwood Gallery, the work in this exhibit is as personal as history can get.

Black and white photographs of a woman and her child are in the centre of a brightly coloured painting. Below the smiling faces is a photograph of hundreds of bodies lying side by side in a mass grave. Thick blood seems to pour out of the picture onto the canvas. Floating at the top of the painting is the hand-written story of a 10-year-old girl who hid and fed her mother through World War Two. The girl, who, unlike her mother, didn't have a Jewish accent and could run fast, became a beggar while her mom hid in cattle sheds, bushes, grain fields, haystacks and attics.

This painting, "I Was the Mother to My Mother," belongs to Malka Pishanitskaya, one of 17 participants in *The Gesher Project*, which employed creativity as a means of coming to terms with the trauma of the Holocaust and its aftermath. The name "Gesher," the Hebrew word for "bridge," was used because the project's purpose was to build "bridges of hope" between generations with poetry and art.

The Vancouver-based project, which was facilitated by a visual artist, a psychologist, a writer and a coordinator, took five months of collective and individual writing and painting. Through their art, the participants, who are survivors, child survivors or the children of survivors, explored themes of survival, guilt, secrets, Judaism and silence.

The artwork, although not done by professionals, is full of personal imagery that is both beautiful and full of pain. Old postcards and photographs of Jewish families are pasted next to sketches of thousands of people being herded to death camps. The gold Stars of David pinned to lapels sit next to the ever-present red paint that is smeared and dripping inside almost every frame. The main difference between this project and many other Holocaust tributes is that it puts the emphasis on the personal experiences and memories of the artists.

"There is a great sense of these people exposing the personal side of the tragedy and the hatred of the Holocaust and the aftermath, something that comes across quite differently in history books," said Angela Anderson of the the Victoria Holocaust Remembrance and Education Society (VHRES), the group that brought the exhibit to Victoria.

Poetry, as well as letters that each participant wrote to loved ones about their relationship to the Holocaust accompanies the art in the exhibit. Pouring over each part of a participant's work takes a lot of time, but it means truly listening to the stories of each artist.

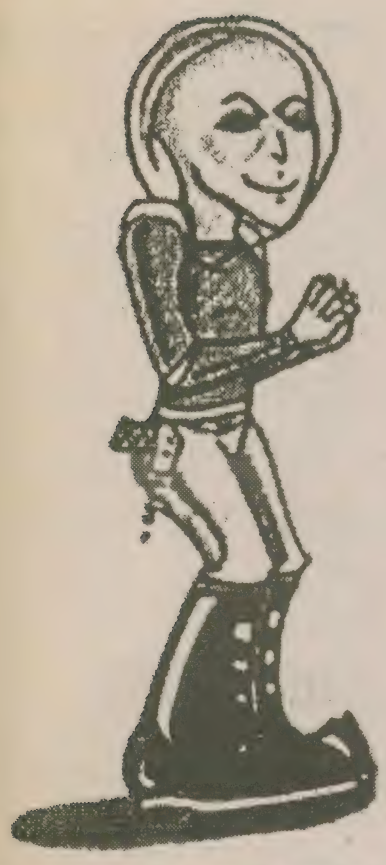
"A lot of people have really been moved by the exhibit," said Lydia Delbianco, publicist for *The Gesher Project* in Victoria. "They've been taking a lot of time and soaking it up."

Anderson agrees that taking the time to explore each piece makes for the most meaningful viewing.

"It's not uncommon to see some people stay for an extended length of time, pondering each painting carefully, and there are some people who are overcome and have to leave the gallery."

"Now they are an image, not a number," wrote Sidi Schaffer, a child survivor, of the relatives she had sketched. I am reminded of the number tattooed in faded ink on Reina's forearm and see the desire to preserve memory.

The Maltwood will be host to an afternoon of poetry by 10 participants in *The Gesher Project* as well as Linda Rogers, Steve Berer and Isa Milman from Victoria. The reading will be held amidst the art, on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. *The Gesher Project* shows till Jan. 12, 2001.



Kuntusi the Alien waits for Vertigo crowds

Innocent Energy Flux Band set to infuse Vertigo crowd

by Jonathan Rothman & Jessica Gin-jade Chan

This Saturday's unique musical collage of hip-hop, funk, dub and roots reggae should liven up the legs of anyone who has to sit and study for a little while. So head on out to Vertigo to catch some local talent. You know, kick out the jams a little before those exams kick in. Hell, even if you have exams, come out because it's Saturday night, and this one is not to be missed.

If you've never heard the singular groove of Eep Op Orp, it is a three-piece band made up of bassist Andrew Welby, keyboardist Jamie Cummins and drummer Jules Charles. Called "The Innocent but Astounding Energy Flux" by Enigmatica Entertainment, the trio's chaotic, beat-driven soundscapes are largely improvised. However, this Saturday's show will mark the first time a collaborative musical effort has been struck between Eep Op Orp and other local musicians, djs and mcs.

The idea behind this show seems overly inventive. An alien named Kuntusi is seeking a means to end an alien civil war. The aliens are fighting because they have no entertainment left to make them happy. Kuntusi hears his fellow aliens have heard beautiful music being played by musicians on Earth. Kuntusi decides he needs a means to get the music from planet Earth without the knowledge of the earthlings.

Kuntusi's plan is simple. He will have the"innocent" terrestrial musicians play a live two-hour set of dub, hip hop, funk, drum n' bass and roots reggae. The Innocent Energy Flux Band will comprise of Eep Op Orp, members of the Stir Fry Crew ("Jus B," "Demo One," mc Kia and dj Gaff), Ian (trumpet) from Pacific Frontal System and Graham (saxophone) from Los Habaneros. Al (guitar) from Rainshadow and Tyler (stick-bass) from Monkey Spanker will be featured in a roots reggae segment of the show. Dj Nature Boy will play some awesome dancehall and soca rhytms before and after the Innocent Energy Flux Band's set.

This set-up does sounds hokey. Kuntusi's fellows are fighting a civil war, but they are still cooperating to bring Earth music to their alien world. Kuntusi has no friends on Earth, but is able to arrange a two-hour performance by talented musicians. This alien is able to arrange all this with greater ease than Virgin Records, RCA, BMG or Universal Records.

"We're gonna jam it up," says Eep Op Orp drummer Jules Charles. "For us, it's about getting together and improvising. [The show will be] mostly new material."

Putting the absurd aside, this opportunity is too good to pass up. How often do you get to see jazz, dub and Latin music musicians perform live hip-hop or jazz? Not to mention the added bonus of mcs singing over top. This will be an excellent show for wittnessing excellent local jazz, Latin, dub and hip hop artists in collaboration.

The Innocent Energy Flux Band performs Saturday, Dec. 2 at Vertigo. Tickets are $8.50 in advance, available at Lyle's Place, HMV, Retro Wear, Complex and the UVSS Information Booth. Door tickets are $10 at Vertigo. Participants are asked to bring canned food for The Mustard Seed to be eligible for prizes.

A double dip of community theatre

by Colin Plant

As the last leaves drop from the trees in November, four of Victoria's community theatres are offering their annual pre-Christmas shows hoping to take away your fall blahs and a few of your dollars too. I recently ventured out to see two of these productions: the Victoria Theatre Guild's *Deathtrap* and the Victoria Operatic Society's *Me and My Girl*.

The Guild's second offering of their season is *Deathtrap*, the classic thriller by Ira Levin, the author of *Rosemary's Baby*. The thriller, which opened in New York, Feb. 26, 1978, became the longest running thriller on Broadway when it overtook the record-holder *Angel Street* (1,295 performances). By its fifth year on Broadway, *Deathtrap* had run 1,809 performances.

What made the play famous was its clever meta-theatricality. Simply put, it's a play in which a playwright is writing a play about a murder that actually occurs during the course of the play. Confusing as this may sound, the play is clever enough, and has enough recapitulating exposition to allow even a recent theatre convert the chance to follow along.

Regrettably, despite the existence of a few moments of well-orchestrated terror, much of this production is flaccid. The scenes between the climaxes are so plodding that you cannot help but lose interest. Pacing was a major problem all night long, and this added at least 15 unnecessary minutes to the play.

Leading the way in this pageant of mediocrity is former CFAX radio host Barry Bowman as the aging playwright Sidney. His performance of the failing writer was vocally engaging at times, but as a whole, physically challenged. Bowman was unable to blend his voice with his body and often seemed uncertain as to what he should be doing on the stage. Perhaps it was opening night jitters. His inability to physically convey the different levels of tension proved greatly disappointing.

Regular Langham Court actor Rob Cruse plays the young writer Clifford whom Sidney invites over to his house to work on a hot new script. Clifford does not know that the elder writer really wants his script more than his company, and that he might even kill in order to get it.

Unfortunately, Cruse's portrayal was awkward as he tried to play the young writer that he so obviously was not. His voice was more annoying than youthful, and his lack of vocal control contrasted largely with Bowman's groomed voice.

Stealing the show was Jean Topham's two brief interludes as the prophetic neighbour Helga. The comic timing and zest in her portrayal were welcome relief from the bad acting of her counterparts.

Unfortunately, the set, costumes and sound were unanimously weak and added little to the tension required by the production. The set, which was supposedly a converted stable house, was sloppily dressed and looked like the work of an amateur carpenter.

Laboured and lengthy scene changes did not help the production either. The costumes looked uncomfortable to wear and did not reflect the socio-economic status of the characters. However, lighting designer Chris Oliver does deserve some praise. Oliver's design featured subtle shifts that effectively changed the mood of the residence.

Sadly, it was more of a deathtrap inside the theatre than on the stage.

On the other side of the theatrical spectrum, the story of *Me and My Girl* is pure wish-fulfillment fantasy. It features the classic theme that love will conquer all. Featuring several well-staged, large-scale musical numbers, this Victoria Operatic Society production succeeds mainly as a result of a young and energized chorus and the performance of a lifetime by VOS veteran Jennifer Sanders as co-lead Sally Smith.

A brief bit of plot offered for those who need it: At the death of the Earl of Hereford, lawyers go looking for the heir, and discover him in Bill Snibson, a small-time drifter in the Lambeth slums. All the fortune and responsibilities of the Earldom are to be placed upon Bill, provided that he proves to the executors that he is worthy of the position. This includes making a suitable marriage to a member of the upper classes. However, Bill already loves Sally, a Lambeth girl. What will Bill choose? His girl, or his gold?

Me and My Girl was an immense hit in its original incarnation on the London stage in 1937. It ran for two years and almost 1,700 performances. The cast and set designs spawned toys, an international dance craze, and a movie. Then the show fell into near-total obscurity until its successful resuscitation in the mid-1980s.

The production features local actors Paul Terry and Jennifer Sanders as the 'guy' and his girl. Despite Terry's best attempts at the role, his lack of dance and singing experience became very apparent when placed next to Sanders' obvious talents. Sanders is a true triple-threat; she can sing, dance and act. Her Sally Smith is captivating, honest and very polished.

photo provided

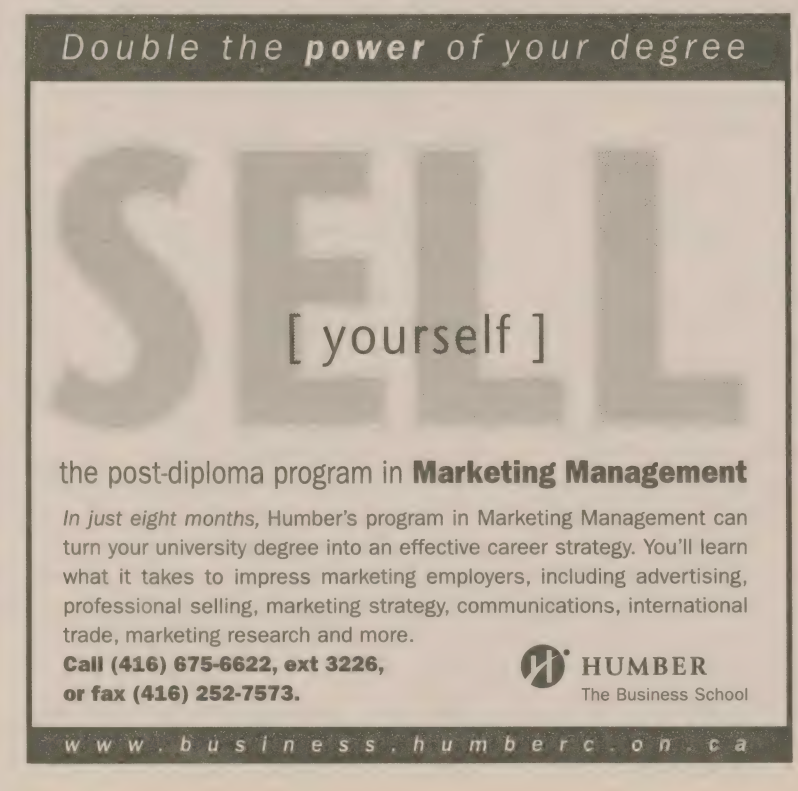
Cast of *Me and My Girl*

Kudos should go to set designer David Walcer and lighting designer Adam Wilkinson for their excellent work. The switch from being outside of the manor house to inside it was particularly clever as they were able to spin the large set piece to reveal the interior of the house. Wilkinson's colour choices provided the audience a beautiful picture to look at when the theatrical pace slowed, as it tended to do in the second act.

Unfortunately, the costumes were distracting as they were not historically accurate. Given the fact the musical is set in the late thirties, it was quite disconcerting to see men wearing suits that were obviously made in the sixties and seventies.

Overall, this production gets by on its enthusiasm and joie de vivre. The cast members really look like they are having a good time on the stage. And that, if nothing else, is the job of the director. Hats off to Drew Kemp and his army of artists for an evening that was both fun and funny.

Deathtrap and *Me and My Girl* both close Saturday. For tickets, call 384-2142 and 386-6121 respectively.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Morgan Leverman: Standout keeper has come a long way

photo provided

by Dena vanDalfsen

How does a female soccer player get to spend six weeks hanging out with three NHL stars? For the Vikes' goalkeeper Morgan Leverman, all she had to do is spend some time running on the treadmill.

The powerhouse goalie admits that she was out of shape last season, but remedied that by joining the intensive Acceleration Program at the University of Alberta this past summer; an intense programme of cardiovascular training. After a workout, "My ab muscles were sore from breathing so hard," she said.

It wasn't so bad working out with Jason Strudwick of the Vancouver Canucks, James Holland of the Buffalo Sabers and Tyson Nash of the St. Louis Blues. While the athletes were a little bit intimidating at first and liked to tease her, overall they were just "really, really nice," said Leverman.

Leverman may be imposing on the soccer field but is not so in person. She stands at only five feet, four inches. Her short spiky hair has almost a pixyish quality to it and her warm smile and bright eyes denote her open and friendly attributes.

As we sit down to chat between classes she's wearing a pair of sweats and her soccer jacket. A bright orange ball cap has been pulled down over her hair.

The Acceleration Program was beneficial to Leverman's fitness level. "There was nobody who knew me last year that didn't say something about it," she said. Leverman's new level of fitness, as well as her experience playing in the Alberta Major League over the summer, gained Leverman the position as the Vikes starting goaltender this season.

"The Acceleration program was good for Morgan. She came back much more powerful and explosive, she comes out quickly and closes down angles quickly," said Vikes head coach Ian Bridge.

These skills are definitely important because they meld well with the new defensive strategy the Vikes played this year. "We're playing a four person flat back instead of a sweeper so I'm more in the play," said Leverman.

Because no defenders are staying back, the goaltender has to move out further and is called on to make some really big saves, which makes Leverman's game an exciting one.

While growing up, Leverman was one of those people who was on every team during secondary school in Prince George. Leverman's father Bob, a lawyer, remembers many weekends away from home to play soccer, ringette, hockey and other sports.

In a single word, Bob Leverman describes his daughter as "unique," and as a child, she was social, always with friends, creative, confident and willing to try anything. "She had no fear," he said.

Fearlessness is an important quality for a girl who grew up playing sports in the backyard with her brother. Leverman's father said that she worshipped her older brother. Cameron is five years older than Morgan. He's married and lives in Edmonton, where he teaches and coaches soccer. As a kid in Prince George, he was Leverman's opposition. "Whether it was soccer or hockey, Cam never went easy on her," said Bob Leverman.

This was a message that she obviously took to heart. Her father recalls that when she was playing indoor soccer, Leverman would invite the men's team to shoot on her as hard as possible. She would always say, "Don't let up, don't let up."

"She's good at outdoor soccer, but in indoor she's a genuine force," her dad says.

Soccer was a family thing at the Leverman household. There is a history of soccer on Leverman's mom's side of the family and until coming to UVic, Morgan's only coaches were her father and brother.

"We coached her in aggression," said Bob Leverman. "There is no such thing as taking turns in competitive sports."

According to her father, Morgan's strength is one-on-one play. He recalled an all-star game when a player was coming down the field fast on a breakaway, Morgan came way out and threw herself at the girl's cleats. Morgan made the save. Ten minutes later the same girl got the ball and started down the field on another breakaway, but after looking up at Leverman, she stopped dead. That girl's teammates were yelling at her to keep going but the girl just said, "That hurts, she's crazy, you do it."

> Morgan is an interesting person. All goalies have to be a little bit nuts to play the position they do. You have to be a bit special to be a goalkeeper.
>
> *Head coach Ian Bridge*

Pain tolerance is another factor that helps Leverman tough out games.

"Morgan has a high level of pain tolerance," said her father. He said that Morgan has tried out for a team with a cast on her foot and played a game with a broken finger. He remembers playing a provincial tournament in Kelowna once. Morgan made a big save and got a bloody nose. She immediately turned her back so that the ref wouldn't see the blood – you're not allowed to keep playing if you're bleeding and somebody packed her nose so she could keep playing.

As well as being physically tough, Leverman puts a lot of stock in her mental game, saying it is particularly important for goalies. Leverman credits Dr. Peter Usher, a sport psychologist from Prince George who has worked with Olympians of various sports, with teaching her a number of important things that she will never forget: "Your hands don't catch the ball," and "Some people play with the fear of failure while others play exhilirated by the chance to succeed."

Leverman describes herself as hard working, "where it counts" and a passionate person. "I am in love with lots of things," said Leverman. One of those things is music. Leverman recently formed a band with some friends and has began songwriting. In high school, Leverman taught the grade eight and nine jazz band.

"They were better than the band that I was in," she said.

Bob Leverman reports that one of Morgan's old jazz band students has become the new student band teacher, and when the head music teacher asked her why she was teaching something in a specific way, she said, "That's how Morgan did it."

"They still speak fondly of Morgan over at the high school," said Bob.

It is because Leverman's jazz band won a gold medal at a competition or she wouldn't be a Vikes starter right now. Leverman had not planned to attend UVic. "She was set to go to the States," said Bob Leverman. "We had been talking to a couple of schools. It was difficult to orchestrate but we had some partial soccer scholarships worked out."

That all fell through though when Leverman was recruited by the UVic music department. Now when she's not between the posts on the soccer field, she's using her own pipes during classes as a music major.

Leverman does not seem at all disappointed with her decision to stay in Canada. "I like it a lot better [in Victoria than Prince George]. It's a much more romantic place," said Leverman. "There's culture. It's cool."

When Leverman arrived at UVic in her first year she was cut from the Vikes.

"I was scared in the mental game. I fell apart and dropped everything," said Leverman. She did get a back up position on the Gorge Premier team and Bob Leverman thinks that his daughter's year as an understudy for Nicci Wright was good for her. "It challenged her to be number one," he said.

Still Leverman feels she let soccer slide that year and regrets the fact that she wasted so much time. "I got really out of shape, didn't develop any skills and spent a long time getting over [being cut from the team]," said Leverman. "I wasted a lot of time."

Leverman pulled herself together in time to try out for the Vikes 1999-2000 season. In the 11 years that Bridge has coached the women's team, he could barely name a handful of players who were cut from his team, who returned to try out again and says it shows an athlete's determination and that they really want to come back. Leverman had that determination and secured a position as back up goalie behind fifth year started Megan Oleski, but only got to play two games.

Now, she's finished off her first season as starting goalkeeper on a very successful team. The Vikes finished third in the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU), a great result for a women's team that hasn't even made the trip to the CIAU's since 1998. Bridge also noted that this season was the best ever for goals against and that is a testament to Leverman's dominance in the net.

Coach Bridge said that Leverman has adjusted well to the team's new defensive strategy. "She has good anticipation and speed that helps her make the big saves."

"It's a huge improvement over last year. She's more confident, in better shape and she's not giving up rebounds this year. Plus she's a phenomenal diver," said Nieman.

Because of the new strategy this year, a couple big saves are all the goaltender is called upon to do in a game. "Morgan's concentration and focus help her make the one or two big saves," said Bridge. He says that Leverman keeps improving but that she's not the tallest and struggles at times with high balls and that she could also improve on kicking.

"This season's been great. It's the best team I've ever played on," said Leverman. "Everyone likes everyone. Everyone is willing to learn. Everyone is dedicated." Nieman agrees with Leverman and said that if anyone gets along with everyone it's Leverman.

"She's so funny. Sarcastic funny. She's different than the rest of the team. She's in a band and really into music. She sang a bit for the team once, she was really good. She writes her own music and the lyrics are really good," said Nieman.

"Morgan is an interesting person. All goalies have to be a little bit nuts to play the position they do. You have to be a bit special to be a goalkeeper. Their mistakes are magnified. They have to be mentally tough and thick skinned; Morgan has those qualities," said Bridge.

Now that the season is over, Leverman has turned her focus on catching up on all the work that she put off during the season. "School's just something I'm doing while I play out my eligibility," said Leverman.

Leverman sees soccer in her future beyond UVic. "I want to go as far as I can with it," she said. To exactly what level, she wouldn't hypothesize. Still Leverman is practical and when she's finally finished with soccer, she's interested in doing something with her musical abilities.

"I want to teach, but I don't want to deal with all the politics," said Leverman. She plans to get an education degree so she can teach music but said she won't be getting it at UVic.

Vikes at Canadian Cross-Country Championships

Present and past Vikes runners were part of a large contingent of athletes who ventured east to Etobicoke, Ontario, for the Canadian Cross-Country Championships last weekend. Seven members of the Island Pacific Club competed for Team B.C.

UVic runner Nancy Fedoruk placed 27th in the junior women's race and her sister Karen finished 69th. In the junior men's race, Kris Swanson placed 31st.

The senior women's race featured a full Island Pacific team. Most of the team members were also members of the UVic women's team which had won their third consecutive CIAU cross-country team title only two weeks previously.

Vikes coach Brent Fougner who met the team in Ontario after a coaching trip to Japan, was very please with the race. "Everybody ran really well," he said.

Former UVic runner Barb Brych was the top Island Pacific entrant in the senior women's race, placing 9th. CIAU silver medallist Stephanie Mills was 24th. The Vikes' Wendy Cocksedge placed 32nd, Sara McKenzie 37th, Andrea DePol 42nd, Tiffany Evans 43rd and Kelena Lineham 47th. Vikes' physiotherapist Sharon Shew rounded out the results for Island Pacific team finishing in 51st. The senior women's team placed second overall.

Island Pacific also entered a strong senior men's team that featured five UVic alumni who were part of the CIAU record fourth consecutive team cross-country title (1994-1997). Former Team Canada members Graham Cocksedge, Jim Finlayson, and Paddy McCluskey led a strong Island Pacific finish placing 4th, 6th and 10th respectively. Led by three runners in the top 10, the Island Pacific men's team captured the Canadian title.

Graham and Jim's strong runs earned them provisional places on Team Canada for the World Cross-Country Championships. Other Vike alumni, Brych might be joining the men for the trip to the Worlds.

Senior Men 12K
1. Mark Bomba 37:38
4. Graham Cocksedge 37:59
6. Jim Finlayson 38:08
10. Paddy McCluskey 38:26
38. Craig Odermatt 39:47
62. Mark Cryderman 40:49
86. Josh Henderson 42:35

Senior Women 8K
1.Courtney Babcock 27:36
9. Barb Brych 29:00
24. Stephanie Mills 30:17
32. Wendy Cocksedge 30:51
42. Andrea DePol 31:53
43. Tiffany Evans 32:13
47. Kelena Lineham 33:01
51. Sharon Shew 34:18

Junior Women 6K
1. Carol Henry 21:18
12. Liz Ramage 22:44
27. Nancy Fedoruk 23:43
69. Karen Fedoruk 25:16

Junior Men 8K
1. Ryan Hayden 25:16
31. Kris Swanson 27:09

Current Vikes members are in bold.

CIAU scores and standings

Men's Basketball

Canada West

	G	W	L	Pt.	Pct.
Alberta	10	9	1	18	.900
Victoria	10	6	4	12	.600
Lethbridge	10	5	5	10	.500
Saskatchewan	10	5	5	10	.500
UBC	10	4	6	8	.400
Calgary	10	4	6	8	.400
Trinity Western	10	4	6	8	.400
Simon Fraser	8	3	5	6	.375

GPAC

	G	W	L	Pt.	Pct.
Brandon	10	8	2	16	.800
Manitoba	8	4	4	8	.500
Winnipeg	8	3	5	6	.375
Regina	8	1	7	2	.125

Women's Basketball

Canada West

	G	W	L	Pt.	Pct.
Victoria	10	8	2	16	.800
Calgary	10	8	2	16	.800
Simon Fraser	8	6	2	12	.750
Alberta	10	4	6	8	.400
UBC	10	4	6	8	.400
Saskatchewan	10	4	6	4	.400
Trinity Western	10	1	9	2	.100
Lethbridge	10	0	10	0	.000

GPAC

	G	W	L	Pt.	Pct.
Regina	8	7	1	14	.875
Manitoba	9	6	3	12	.667
Winnipeg	9	6	3	12	.667
Brandon	10	3	7	6	.300

CIAU National Rankings Men's Basketball

Last week's ranking in parenthesis

1. Western Ontario	(1)
2. St. Francis Xavier	(2)
3. Alberta	(3)
4. Carleton	(6)
5. McMaster	(5)
6. Brandon	(4)
7. Concordia	(7)
8. York	(9)
9. St. Mary's	(8)
10. Ryerson	(NR)

CIAU National Rankings Women's Basketball

1. Victoria	(1)
2. Regina	(3)
3. Manitoba	(2)
4. Calgary	(5)
5. Winnipeg	(T6)
6. SFU	(4)
7. Laurentian	(9)
8. Alberta	(T6)
9. UBC	(10)
10. Laval	(8)

As of November 26/2000

B.C. Premier League Rugby

Saturday's result, at Wallace Field (Victoria):

Burnaby Lake 13
Univ. Victoria 10

Up-coming Vikes Fixtures (all games at Wallace Field)

December 2:
James Bay @ UVic
January 20:
Graham Clark Memorial

Vikes B-Ball Results

Men

Nov. 24:
Victoria 69, SFU 61
Nov. 25:
Victoria 75, SFU 66

Women

Nov. 24:
Victoria 61, SFU 58
Nov. 25:
Victoria 77, SFU 69

CIAU Women's Scoring Leaders

	PPG
L. Doan, Calg.	20.8
J. Galipeau, SMU	18.0
L. Anderson, Victoria	**17.7**

Vikes b-ball lays down the law in Burnaby

by Iain McCletchie

Men's

Heading into last weekend's matches with the SFU Clan, the University of Victoria men's basketball team had proven themselves to be, well, consistently inconsistent.

A perfect string of win/loss weekends left the Vikes at 4-4, tied for second position in the tough Canada West conference.

With the SFU matches representing the last action the team would see before the Christmas break, it was important for Victoria to win both matches; a fact not lost upon head coach Guy Vetrie.

"We've been a little inconsistent in the early going, and it's always tough to win on the road, especially at SFU because they are a very good team."

Good team or not, Victoria showed who was boss, winning two hard-fought contests.

Ali Wilmott led the Vikes with 26 points and five steals in a 69-61 win Friday night, and continued his dominating performance with 22 points and four rebounds in Saturday's 75-66 victory.

Besides breaking their streak of split series, the wins left the Vikes with a 6-4 record and sole possession of second place in the Canada West entering the mid-season holiday.

"Going into the break 6-4 is very important for us." said Vetrie. "It's obviously much better than being 5-5 or 4-6, and gives us some momentum for the second half.

"This is a tough conference, and it doesn't get any easier from here. Every win is important."

A key for the Vikes this weekend was defending Clan guard Jordan Mason, who leads Canada West with 24.7 points per game. In a pre-season match against Victoria, Mason struck for 31 points in a losing cause.

"We did a very good job on Mason," said Vetrie. "He really wasn't a factor in either game. When he goes well, so does everyone else on their team because he's key in their transition and offence. Our defence on him was great."

Mason dropped in 18 points Friday night, but barely registered on Saturday, scoring a measly nine points. Brent Charleton attempted to pick up the slack for the Clan, scoring 16 and adding five rebounds, but it wasn't enough.

The losses drop SFU to 3-5, and puts them at the tail-end in the race for the Canada West playoffs.

The break will be welcomed by the Vikes, but it won't be very long. A post-Christmas tournament at UBC is in the cards, followed by a road trip to face the University of Winnipeg when league play resumes in the first week of January.

Women's

A titanic battle occurred Friday night atop Burnaby mountain as the University of Victoria Vikes faced off against their newest provincial rival.

The women of the SFU Clan waltzed into the final weekend of the regular season's first-half with a perfect 11-0 overall record; 6-0 in Canada West play.

With their 65 game home unbeaten streak, a fourth place ranking in last week's national coaches poll, and a haughty attitude toward playing in the CIAU, SFU presented a formidable challenge to the visiting Vikes.

> You could tell the players really wanted the wins, and weren't going to be denied.
>
> *Kathy Shields*

Victoria entered the weekend at 6-2, but due to their tough schedule, held the number one ranking in the nation.

With a veteran-heavy team, most of whom had played in a CIAU final, the Vikes knew they had experience on their side. Something had to give.

Friday's match was extremely close the whole way through. In the first-half alone the score was knotted six times. After the intermission the see-saw tempo continued as each team took turns monopolizing the scoring. The result was a 58-58 tie with 32 seconds remaining.

With 16 seconds on the clock, Vikes shooting guard Kim Johnson hit a three-point bomb to put her team up by three.

With time running out and possession of the ball, SFU was unable to get off a shot. When the final horn sounded, the Clan had to endure the ignominy of watching Victoria walk off the floor with a 61-58 victory (the Clan's first home loss in over four years).

Johnson had a huge game for the Vikes, pouring in 33 points, including the game-winning trey, and added five rebounds.

Teresa Kleindenst shouldered the load for the Clan, chalking up 25 points, eight boards and five assists.

But the Vikes weren't done for the weekend; not by a long shot.

On Saturday night, Victoria continued kicking sand in the Clans' collective face, placing a 77-69 decision in the win column.

The loss dropped SFU to 6-2 in Canada West play, and sixth in the national rankings, and catapulted the Vikes into first place with an 8-2 record.

Shooting guard Lindsay Anderson, last week's Canada West athlete of the week, had 20 points and four boards for the Vikes. Kleindenst continued her stellar work hitting for 32 points and adding six rebounds in the losing effort.

Victoria head coach Kathy Shields was extremely happy with her team's Saturday performance calling it "a tremendously satisfying victory".

According to Shields, one of the keys to the Vike's weekend success was the experience of her players, who weren't fazed in the least by the magnitude of the event.

"We've been through a lot together and that experience made a huge difference for us," she said. "You could tell the players really wanted the wins, and weren't going to be denied."

While Victoria's outside shooters, Johnson and Anderson, were spot on both nights, Shields took the time to point out the inside game of her forwards who dominated in the paint.

"Angela Mangan had a very big weekend on the boards, with seven on Friday and eight on Saturday. She also did a very good job defensively on their post players."

With an interlocking schedule being played with the teams of the Great Plains Conference (GPAC), the Vikes will be in a constant battle to make the CIAU finals all season. Eight out of the 10 teams in the latest CIAU poll play in the West.

"Three teams will go to CIAU's from this conference, but it's a very tough conference. Hosting the playoffs is a big key in making it there, and every win counts."

The next home game for both squads is Jan. 12 against the University of Brandon Bobcats.

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Unsanctioned Vikes rugby tops in Canada

by Jeremy Shragge

photo by Richard Warrington

Burnaby Lake lock gets a boost to snag the line-out against the Vikes.

In the world of university of athletics, especially with respect to team sports, it is often taken for granted that one of the chief motivating factors for players, coaches and fans is the desire to defeat "the other school."

Coveting victory in the conference/tournament/national championship, and the bragging rights that accompany such successes, perpetuates the intense competitive culture that is required for performance in high intensity sports.

For a number of the varsity teams teams of the University of Victoria, however, the impetus to become Canadian "university champion" is severely checked by both the absence of significant competition from other schools and, *ipso facto*, the lack of official Canada West leagues.

In the case of the UVic men's rugby program, both of these realities are acute in the extreme.

According to Vikes and National Seven-A-Side head coach Doug Tate, there are simply too few teams of too low a calibre to warrant the expense of CIAU funding. "There aren't enough teams to sustain a league good enough," he said.

Notwithstanding the fact that women's rugby was endorsed by the CIAU two years ago – a move that, along with the sanctioning of women's field hockey, Tate called "a gender equity thing" – the Vikes skipper doesn't believe that the men will ever receive equivalent station, and the associated fringe benefits, such as money and media exposure.

To understand Tate's pessimism, one must understand the nature of rugby as it is played in this country in general and Victoria in particular.

For virtually every nation other than Canada, rugby is a winter sport; or rather, league competition occurs during the winter months. In the Great White North, the game is played in the spring and the summer – for obvious reasons.

This exigency has the effect of creating a long off-season for both club and representative (provincial and national) teams.

As a result, the quality of rugby in Canada suffers, and is, therefore, disproportionately below that of the other, smaller, more tropical British Dominions, like South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

On Vancouver Island, however, one finds one of the only areas in the country where the game can be played year round (the Lower Mainland is another).

For UVic, this state of affairs has translated into the finest university rugby program in Canada, and, perhaps, North America as well.

With over 70 players playing on three separate teams–the Vikes (varsity side), Norsemen (under 23; seconds) and Jutes (under 21; rookies) – no other school in the nation can even pretend to compete against UVic. (The Vikes play in the talent ladened B.C. Premier League, perhaps the strongest men's division on the continent.)

"We beat UBC by 40 points – and that's a lot," said Tate. "And they are the second best team in Canada at the university level."

Despite this, he added, there is still a desire for there to be a men's university championship. "If it wasn't a money issue, [a national championship] would be happening every year, no question.

Sun Deamon's soccer coach brought glory to the UCC

Kamloops women's soccer coach won College Coach of the Year three times

by Colin Pacholuk

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CUP) – The University College of the Cariboo is mourning the loss of one of the greatest contributors to the recognition of the school, as well as the greatest soccer coach in Sun Deamons' history.

Mike Bartram, three-time Canadian Colleges Athletic Association soccer coach of the year, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 21 from lymphatic cancer.

"No one knew who UCC was until we became a powerhouse in women's soccer, thanks to Mike," said Tracy Bilsky, chair of the athletics department.

Bartram came to UCC in 1981 when he became the coach of the 1981-82 Cariboo Chiefs men's soccer team (the Sun Deamons' former moniker). He became the assistant coach of the school's women's squad in the 1991-92 season, gaining full control over the program one year later.

He led the UCC women to the national silver medal three times in four years, and finally earned the gold medal last year in Medicine Hat.

His coaching skills gained him the honour of coach of the year in 1995-96, 1997-98 and 1999-2000, becoming the first Canadian soccer coach to win the award three times.

Bartram was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer last March when he was on a trip to watch some of the members of his soccer team play basketball in Calgary.

Feeling ill, he decided to go to the hospital for tests. Upon receiving the diagnosis, Bartram rushed back to B.C. for treatment.

The Sun Deamon's skipper cared deeply for his team and UCC in general. Shortly after being diagnosed, and against medical advice, he insisted on having a day pass from the hospital to attend the year-end athletic awards.

In addition to his loyalty to his players and college, Bartram loved the game of soccer.

"He was instrumental in the development of women's soccer in Kamloops," said Bilsky. "When he came to Kamloops, there were no girls' soccer teams. He literally went around to all the girls watching the boys soccer games and asked them if they wanted to play, instead of just watch."

> No one knew who UCC was until we became a powerhouse in women's soccer, thanks to Mike.
>
> *Tracy Bilsky*

He started the UCC Alumni Ladies Soccer Team with the West Coast Soccer League and used all of his UCC coaching honorarium to fund the team.

"He was honest with an enormous amount of integrity," remembered Bilsky, "and life was never too serious for him. He took what life had to offer and squeezed every ounce out of it. He always looked at the positive."

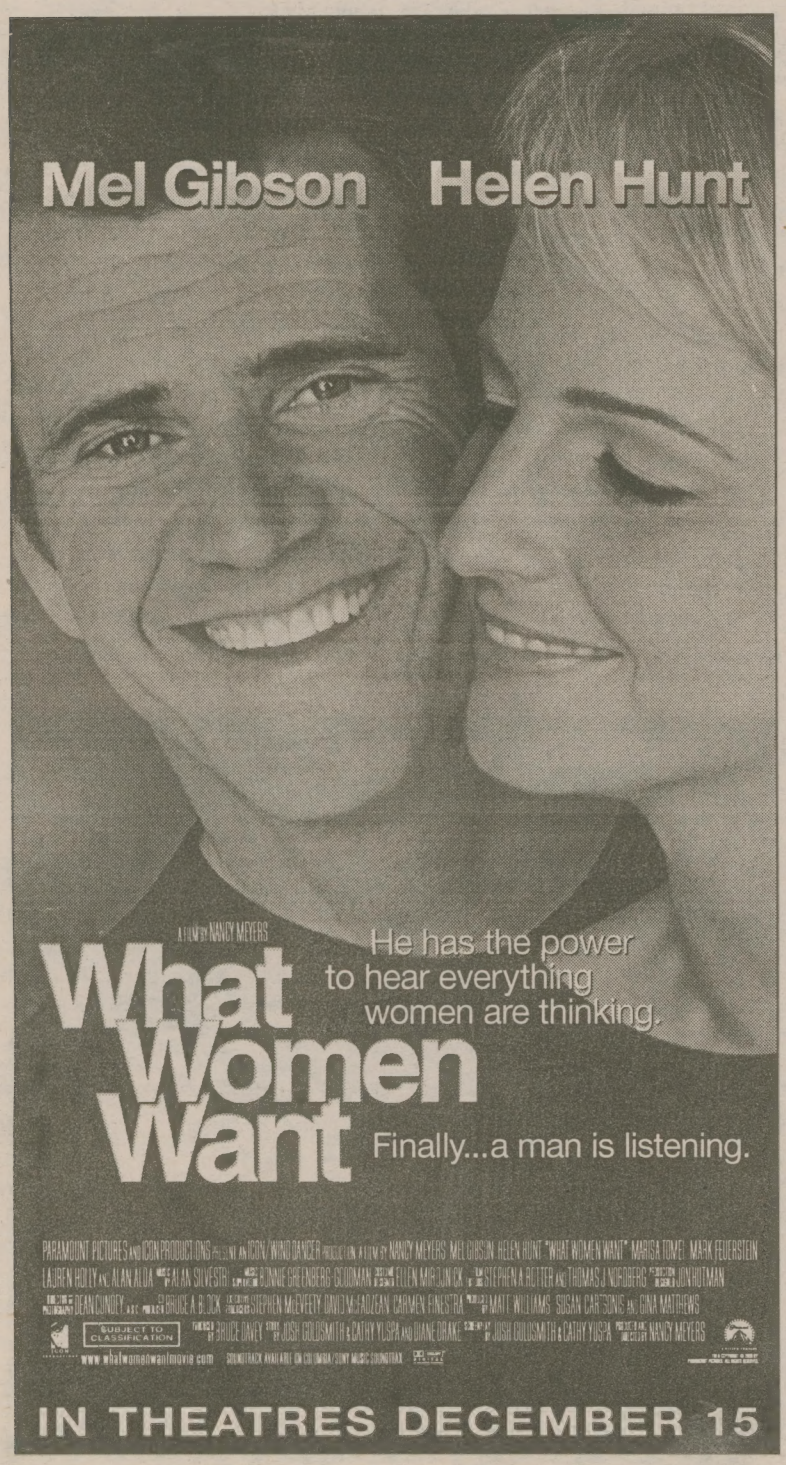
Bartram was always the kind of person who was up front and realistic with everything in life.

According to Bilsky, "Once he found out the treatments weren't working he was up front with it and didn't try to keep it a secret." His honesty and realistic attitude is what made him popular with his team.

"He realized that the players were not only soccer players, but that they were also students and that they had jobs," Bilsky added.

"He treated the players like they were his children... and I think that's one of the reasons the girls liked him."

Bartram leaves behind his wife and three daughters.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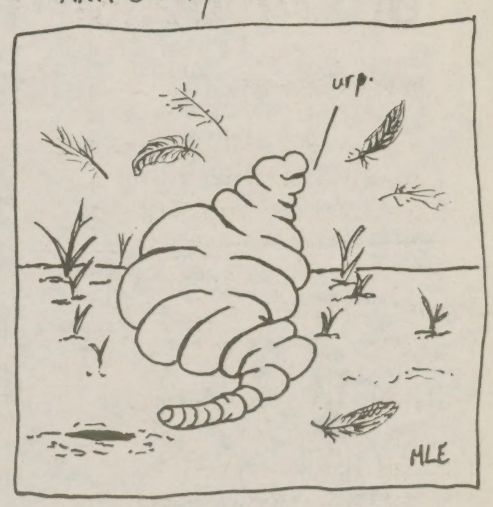
If I hear "too close to call" one more time I will vomit. Yep, it's politics Light with...
COMICS FOR YOUR CHURCH
election 2000
by BRIAN FUKUSHIMA, Apathetic Canadian.
Isn't it amazing how much the US Presidential election is like a world series or Superbowl?
I'M on TV!
GORE
Screaming Zealous Idiots who are probably more concerned with being on the winning side than the actual issues at hand...
But the cool thing is, there was basically a TIE! If this truly were a sporting event, there would be some sort of cool tiebreakes...
And to decide the president of the free world, residents of Canada and Mexico will take to the polls...
After all, this affects us up here too!
And hell, since we're all so obsessed with game shows, why not add an intellectual element to the election?
10 Seconds left Mr. Bush. You gotta find B.C. !!
NS
ON
PEI
Baja California*
?
* A great joke a tourguide in Anaheim told me.
And barring that, I'm sure there are a lot of people who would go with the idea of throwing darts
LAWNDARTS
Those illegal metal ones
GRRR..
Well, I'm just crossing my fingers for both George Dub-Yah and Doris Day to be running North America.
Tell me another one, Dad!
KRAKOOOOM
Okay, once upon a time, there was a magical thing called health care..
THOOM
Help.
WWW.BENTCOMICS.COM

...YOU SELF-SERVING IGNORANT BOOR!
You Promenade into the park, sit on your "throne", expecting us to grovel. Let Me Have the honor, O' Great Sachem...
To Be the First to Tell You: We Are So Grateful!...
CAW.
Oh, man!.. Those morsels of week-old, rock hard white bread crap. MMM! Can't get enough of it!
Actually, to show our appreciation, the Boys and I got you a little gift-
SPLAT
Familiar? We've been regurgitating all the muck you've been trying to feed us into a nice little ball!..
...You can just think of it as us repaying the favor!
You humans think we're so dependant!
DEPENDANCY, HA! Heeey, Give me your wallet...
I SAID GIVE ME YOU WALLET, BEFORE I PECK YOUR EYES INTO PULP!
Thank you!... Come, Boys! To the sky!
THE END.
ROWR.
SNIFF.
BY: JASON DESILVA. '99



ON CAMPUS

Attn. all snowboarders and skiers! The UVic Outdoors club is planning trips to Whistler/Blackcomb, Mt. Washington, and Big White/Silverstar (reading break). Meeting on **Thurs. Nov. 30** at 5 p.m. in the SUB upper lounge. For info call Dave at 388-6691 or Krystal at 477-3860.

The UVSS Women's Centre and the Status of Women Action Group are hosting a **Dec. 6 Memorial Coffeehouse** at Bean Around the World, 533 Fisgard St., from 7-9:30 p.m. on **Wed. Dec. 6 2000.** Admission is free, and all women, children and men are welcome to attend. If any women are interested in performing (music, poetry, art), contact Kate Dimofski at 721-8353.

Questions about feedback and grading procedures? See the UVSS Ombudsperson. SUB B205. Call 721-8357 or e-mail ombuddy@uvic.ca

"Ring-Out" the week with Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship every Friday night! Everyone is welcome to join us for Praise, Worship, Singing, Prayer, Fellowship and Teaching! Have a Bible? Bring it! See you Friday nights for Ring-Out in Cle C 112 at 7:30-p.m.

OFF CAMPUS

Café Philosophy: Taking public philosophy to a new level. Next topic Suffering: How much suffering is self-created? When is pain a teacher? Is self-sacrifice folly or morally heroic? **Wed. Nov. 29** at 7:30 p.m. at Torrefazione Italia (1234 Government St.), Cover $4/$3 for students. **"Food for Thought"** pre-session starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Michael Picard, Ph.D., at 385-4646 or e-mail pyro@philosophy-shop.com

Damsel or Dragon? The C. G. Jung Society of Victoria presents an introduction to fairy tale interpretation with Jungian Analyst Shirley Halliday at the Monterey Centre (1442 Monterey) on **Fri. Dec. 1** at 7:30 p.m. $12 members/$15 non-members.

Drawings by Sandra Levy will be exhibited in the Ministry of Health Building, 1515 Blanshard St. from **Dec. 4 - Jan. 5.** Mon. to Fri., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS

Enriching our community through friendship! Community Connections reaches out to persons who have a developmental disability, fosters friendship, community inclusion and shared fun! Consider spending a few hours each week as a mentor and friend. Find out how you can make a difference! Call Citizen Advocacy today at 598-6786.

Use your strengths to help someone realize theirs! Everyone deserves the chance to participate in their favourite activity. Recreation Integration Victoria is looking for male volunteers to provide one-on-one assistance for people with disabilities in a recreational setting. To get involved or for more information, call Mark at 477-6314.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

La Senza would like to invite you to the hottest shopping party of the year! Everyone will receive 15 per cent off their purchases and prestige members will receive their 10 per cent discount in addition to the 15 per cent discount. All sales between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. on the following dates and places: **Nov. 30**, Eaton Centre; **Dec. 11**, Mayfair; **Dec. 13**, Hillside; and **Dec. 14**, Eaton Centre.

Sock Drive! Help the homeless! Fill a sock with personal care items and drop it off into one of the boxes located in MacLaurin, Clearihue, Cunningham and Classroom buildings. Socks will be delivered to the Streetlink Emergency Shelter and the Sandy Merriman Women's Shelter.

Visit Subtext's fabulous website at www.uvss.uvic.ca/subtext/

Records Services wants your "Mailing Address." For information and instructions check your address on Webview (www.uvic.ca/reco) before **Dec. 15**.

Pottery Classes available. Six 2.5 hour classes, $140 + GST. Call 383-5446 for more details.

FOR SALE

Ink cartridges refilled from $4.95 to $14.95. Mayfair Mall (by Toys-R-Us). Island Ink-Jet, 381-9583.

Brand new futon with matching table for sale. Only one and a half years old. From the Futon Warehouse. Only $230. For more info please call 592-5394.

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HEY YOU

Dave, happy 22nd birthday! Hugs and kisses!

To My Girl SuzannA!

Fuck the Alliance Party!

Paper is dry, **water** is wetter **Blue** was good, but **black** is better!

Inkberry: I still can't think of a substitute word! - Frans

Satan: This is only temporary.

To the person who locked their bike up with my bike. I couldn't get home to eat perogies with my friend Mark Dowds.

Jon Imbeau, it'll be nice to get together and dream in multi-colours

Hey, I saw you eating crackers on the Mezzanine floor in the library, do you wanna go visit the monkey farm?

Bert, congradulations on graduating!

BILLBOARD RATES

students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
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hey you!	$1/issue

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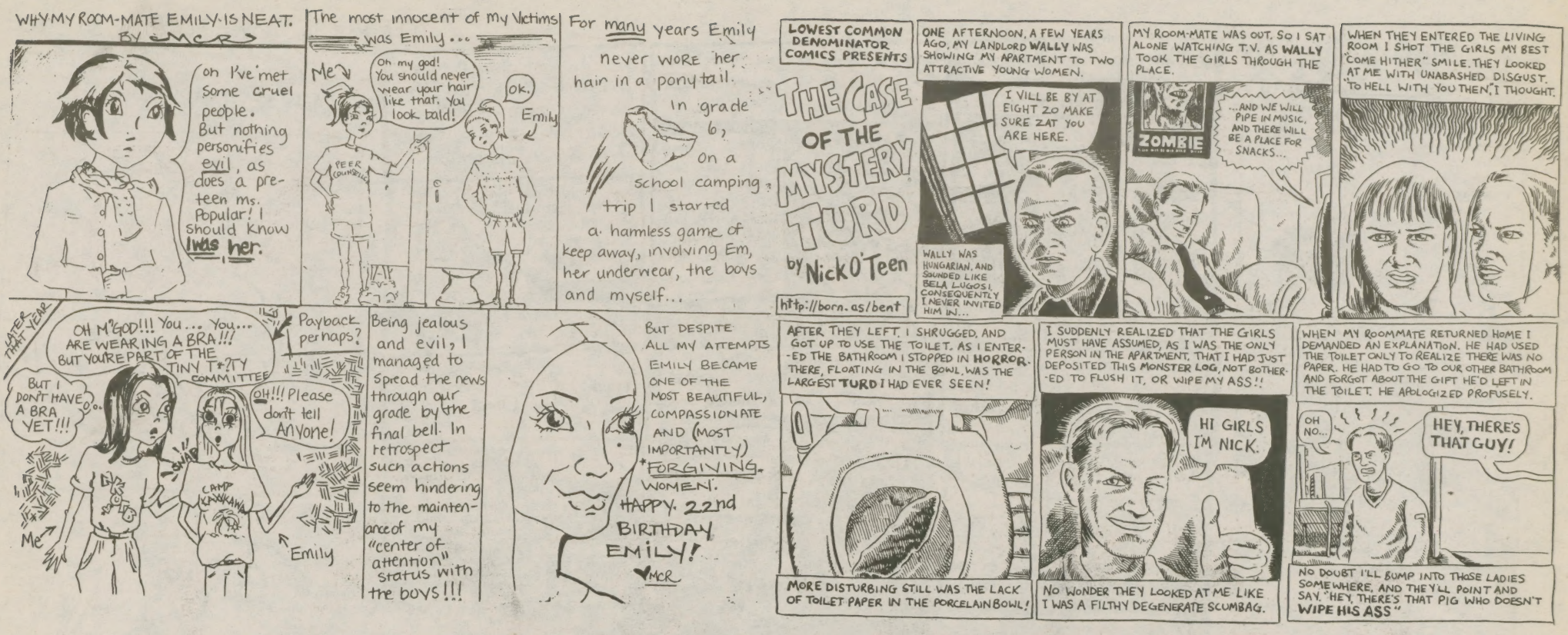
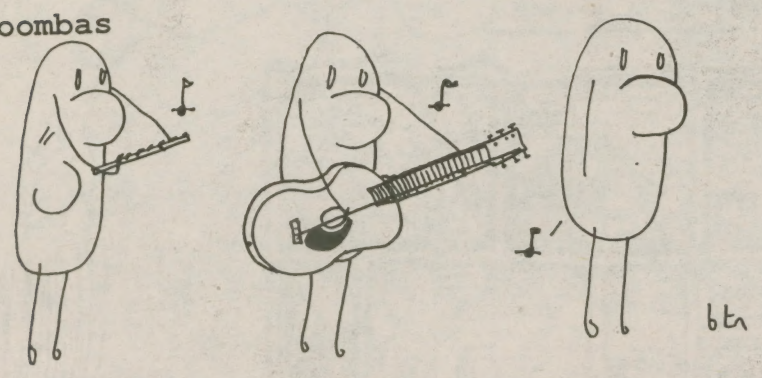

WHY MY ROOM-MATE EMILY IS NEAT.
BY MCR
oh I've met some cruel people. But nothing personifies evil, as does a pre-teen ms. Popular! I should know I was her.
The most innocent of my Victims was Emily...
Me
Oh my god! You should never wear your hair like that. You look bald!
Ok.
Emily
PEER COUNSELOR
For many years Emily never WORE her hair in a ponytail.
In grade 6, on a school camping trip I started a harmless game of keep away, involving Em, her underwear, the boys and myself...
LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR COMICS PRESENTS
THE CASE OF THE MYSTERY TURD
by Nick O'Teen
http://born.as/bent
ONE AFTERNOON, A FEW YEARS AGO, MY LANDLORD WALLY WAS SHOWING MY APARTMENT TO TWO ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMEN.
I VILL BE BY AT EIGHT ZO MAKE SURE ZAT YOU ARE HERE.
WALLY WAS HUNGARIAN, AND SOUNDED LIKE BELA LUGOSI. CONSEQUENTLY I NEVER INVITED HIM IN...
MY ROOM-MATE WAS OUT. SO I SAT ALONE WATCHING T.V. AS WALLY TOOK THE GIRLS THROUGH THE PLACE.
ZOMBIE
...AND WE WILL PIPE IN MUSIC, AND THERE WILL BE A PLACE FOR SNACKS...
WHEN THEY ENTERED THE LIVING ROOM I SHOT THE GIRLS MY BEST "COME HITHER" SMILE. THEY LOOKED AT ME WITH UNABASHED DISGUST. "TO HELL WITH YOU THEN," I THOUGHT.
LATER THAT YEAR
OH M'GOD!!! You... You... ARE WEARING A BRA!!! BUT YOU'RE PART OF THE TINY T*?TY COMMITTEE
Payback perhaps?
BUT I DON'T HAVE A BRA YET!!!
OH!!! Please don't tell Anyone!
CAMP KAWAKAWA
Me
Emily
Being jealous and evil, I managed to spread the news through our grade by the final bell. In retrospect such actions seem hindering to the maintenance of my "center of attention" status with the boys!!!
BUT DESPITE ALL MY ATTEMPTS EMILY BECAME ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, COMPASSIONATE AND (MOST IMPORTANTLY) *FORGIVING WOMEN.
HAPPY 22nd BIRTHDAY EMILY!
MCR
AFTER THEY LEFT, I SHRUGGED, AND GOT UP TO USE THE TOILET. AS I ENTERED THE BATHROOM I STOPPED IN HORROR. THERE, FLOATING IN THE BOWL WAS THE LARGEST TURD I HAD EVER SEEN!
MORE DISTURBING STILL WAS THE LACK OF TOILET PAPER IN THE PORCELAIN BOWL!
I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT THE GIRLS MUST HAVE ASSUMED, AS I WAS THE ONLY PERSON IN THE APARTMENT, THAT I HAD JUST DEPOSITED THIS MONSTER LOG, NOT BOTHERED TO FLUSH IT, OR WIPE MY ASS!!
HI GIRLS I'M NICK.
No WONDER THEY LOOKED AT ME LIKE I WAS A FILTHY DEGENERATE SCUMBAG.
WHEN MY ROOMMATE RETURNED HOME I DEMANDED AN EXPLANATION. HE HAD USED THE TOILET ONLY TO REALIZE THERE WAS NO PAPER. HE HAD TO GO TO OUR OTHER BATHROOM AND FORGOT ABOUT THE GIFT HE'D LEFT IN THE TOILET. HE APOLOGIZED PROFUSELY.
OH NO...
HEY, THERE'S THAT GUY!
NO DOUBT I'LL BUMP INTO THOSE LADIES SOMEWHERE, AND THEY'LL POINT AND SAY, "HEY, THERE'S THAT PIG WHO DOESN'T WIPE HIS ASS"



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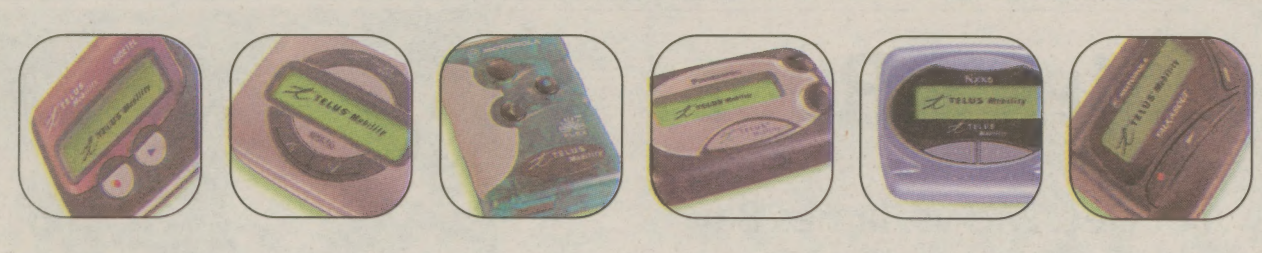

TELUS™ Mobility

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